

Abraham Lincoln

**"FROM
CABIN
TO
CAPITOL"**



**Written by
ELBERT R. MOSES, Litt. D.**

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

"From Cabin to Capitol"

by ELBERT R. MOSES

LINCOLN'S LIFE VIVIDLY TOLD

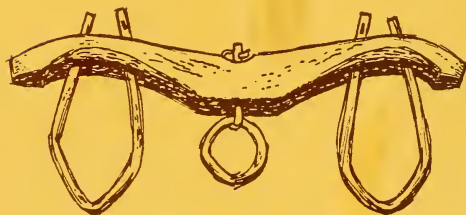
Here is an exquisite Lincoln book written in superb English with short chapters, a definite purpose, and easy to read. Lincoln accepted a speaking engagement in Henry Ward Beecher's Brooklyn church—fate changed the place of meeting to Cooper Union; he changed the speech, and won a great political victory. He overrode tradition and mapped a pre-inaugural speaking tour from Springfield to Washington, to help him win the Peace. He consented to make a "few remarks" at the Consecration Service at the Battlefield of Gettysburg, and the world applauded his efforts. He penned a letter to Mrs. Bixby, of Boston, reported to have lost five sons in battle—that letter is exhibited today on the wall of the library, Oxford University, England, as one of the purest expressions of the English tongue. These and many other historical events in the life of the immortal Lincoln are interestingly recorded in this new "Book of Distinction" — ABRAHAM LINCOLN, "From Cabin to Capitol."

COLLEGE PUBLISHING CO

"Books of Distinction"

Daytona Beach, Florida

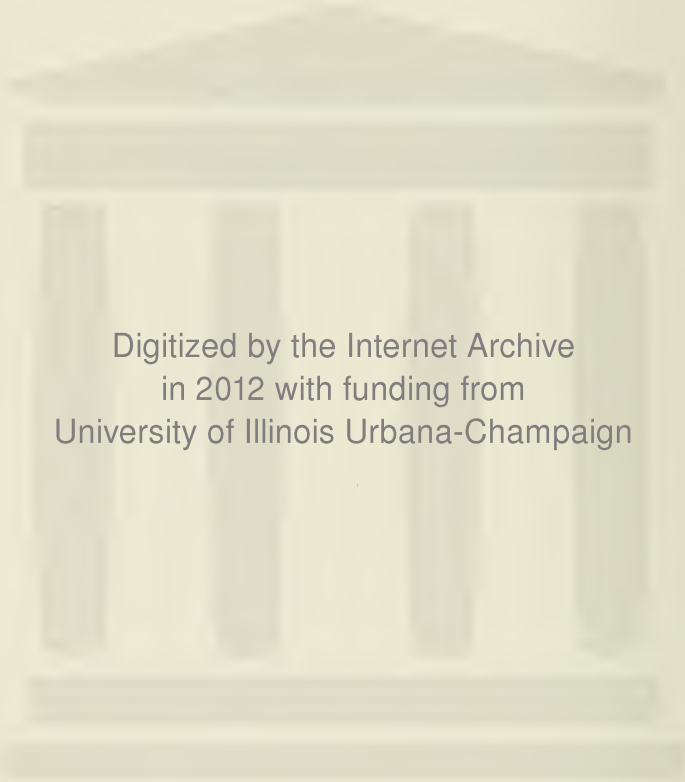
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ABRAHAM LINCOLN
"FROM CABIN TO CAPITOL"



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ELBERT R. MOSES

Abraham Lincoln

"From Cabin to Capitol"

by

ELBERT R. MOSES, Litt.D.

Prefatory Note by

WALDO H. DUNN



COLLEGE PUBLISHING CO.

"Books of Distinction"

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LINCOLN
Room

DEDICATED TO ANA

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*"Up from the Log cabin to the Capitol
One fire was on his spirit, one resolve—
To send the keen axe to the root of wrong,
Clearing a free way for the feet of God,
The eyes of conscience testing every stroke,
To make his deed the measure of a man."*

EDWIN MARKHAM

This is the life story of Abraham Lincoln—a story that has been considered American for so long as to be almost traditional; and so much a part of the American Way as to be almost America itself.

PREFATORY NOTE

Lincoln, like Shakespeare, has been written about so much that the essential facts of the man's life are buried under a mass of words. Most people are too busy to read through a series of volumes in which the man is merely a point about which are grouped the social, political, and military events of the time in which he lived. General readers want to get at the heart of the matter in the shortest possible time. For this reason, I take pleasure in calling attention to the narrative which follows. It gives a maximum of information in a minimum of space. Here a reader will find the unadulterated Lincoln as he rises slowly, steadily, and irresistibly from obscurity to fame. The story as here given has a stark simplicity and plainness very like that of the man whose story it is.

The author, Elbert R. Moses, has one of the most essential qualifications for the task he has performed. Like Lincoln, he came up the hard way. His parents were pioneers who migrated from Connecticut to Minnesota, and by dint of hard labor and high courage helped to develop a great and prosperous state. Young Elbert struggled as Lincoln had struggled before him: for education, for opportunity, for recognition. With the example and the inspiration of Lincoln's life before him, he succeeded.

For more than forty years he has read and meditated and selected. In the following pages he presents what for him is the irreducible minimum that a reader should know about one of our greatest Americans. It is an inspiring and moving story.

I wish that it might be read by every American, especially by every young American. I believe that it will help to dispel much of the fear and gloom, the pessimism and cynicism so prevalent today. This story will breathe new life into every reader who has in him a grain of true worth.

WALDO H. DUNN

AUTHOR'S FOREWORD

In the formative period of my life I heard a lecture which so impressed itself upon me, that my entire future was changed. It brought to me new hopes, new aspirations, a new ambition and a new objective. The objective developed into my vocation, the field in which I was to earn my living, the field of speech.

At about the same time another incident happened. In the public school that I attended, a simple exercise was required of all pupils—the committing to memory and the reciting of a masterpiece of literature on a Friday afternoon's program. This exercise suggested to me my avocation, the field in which I was to play, to relax and have fun. It was to serve as a safety valve for my mental and emotional being.

Both fields were challenging and afforded an abundance of opportunity for research, study, travel, service and the stretch of the imagination.

A vocation is a necessary part of one's life in a world of self-preservation. This is not altogether true of an avocation which may be pursued largely to relieve the strain and tension from the daily grind of routine. This difference, however, does not render its contribution to the reservoir of knowledge less significant.

It is from the field of my avocation that I wish to have my thoughts stem, the field that has suggested my theme, and provided me with the hero of my story—ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Abraham Lincoln is revered wherever the English tongue is spoken. He suggests traits of character often lacking in public men occupying places of trust; and it is not an uncommon sight in this land of the Red, White and Blue, to observe people irrespective of party, creed or color pausing with uncovered heads at the mere mention of his name—a name that through the folding years, has become almost synonymous with the American Way of Life.

I firmly believe that statesmen, like Abraham Lincoln possessing similar qualities of character, are America's strongest protection against the growing menace of communism. They are the hope of civilization.

Part I

LINCOLN DISCOVERS HIMSELF

THE QUEST

H. G. Wells, the English historian, has named Abraham Lincoln as one of the six outstanding immortals of world civilization; and so universal has been his appeal to mankind, that more has been written about him than any other man in history, except Jesus Christ. On the library shelves of the Lincoln National Life Foundation, Fort Wayne, Indiana, occupying 465 lineal feet of space are 8,509 volumes, as of June 17, 1954, all about Abraham Lincoln. It is the largest collection of information ever assembled about any one man in the history of man.

It has been estimated that if Lincoln were to return to us again in the flesh, and read ten hours a day, he could not cover during fifty-five years—his lifetime—all that has been written about him in books, magazines and newspapers.

What is it that has given to him the qualities that have moved so many gifted men to write in such profusion concerning him? What is there about this homely man's character that has so endeared him to mankind and stamped his name with immortality? What is it that others might have done, but had neither the foresight nor the fortitude to do?

These have been questions which have challenged the thoughts of men for three-quarters of a century. They have gripped my attention—since that afternoon in my youth, more than a half century ago, when I took my turn in reciting the Gettysburg Address in that little Minnesota public school room. They have prompted me to read voluminous pages about his life. They have stimulated within me a desire to visit countless museums, memorials, monuments, battlegrounds and shrines, in quest for information about this unusual man.¹ They have

led me to counsel with those who knew him when he walked among us. They have taken me down into dust-laden basements of libraries.² Out across the open spaces, to the spot of the little sixteen-by-eighteen foot Kentucky cabin, where he was born from the wedlock of Thomas and Nancy Lincoln,³ and they carried me on a few miles distant to Knob Creek, where his boyhood companion miraculously rescued him from drowning.⁴

As I stood beside the bank of this-nearly dried-up, little stream, I found myself unconsciously repeating the words of the poet Lowell,

"Truth forever on the scaffold,
Wrong forever on the throne,
Yet the scaffold holds the future,
And behind the dim unknown
Standeth God within the shadow,
Keeping watch above his own."

Then pressing on twenty miles farther to Elizabethtown, where in the musty archives of the vine covered court house, I found the record of the marriage of Thomas Lincoln to his second wife, Sarah Bush Johnson.

Thomas Lincoln may have been considered shiftless by some, but he certainly knew how to pick his women; for no boy ever had two finer mothers than Nancy Hanks and Sarah Bush.

"All that I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother," said Lincoln. "To which did you refer?" inquired a friend. "Don't ask me that question," was Lincoln's quick reply. "For I mean both, as it was mother all my life except the desolate period between the time mother died, and father brought mother into the home again. Both were as one mother—hence I simply say—mother."⁵

HIS RESOLVE

Abe's father, Thomas Lincoln, had moved three times during his young life. First, from the original farm in Nolen Creek, Kentucky, he moved to a farm on Knob Creek, about ten miles away. The reason for this venture was probably poor land and the inability to obtain a clear title to the property.

However, the Knob Creek farm had some distinct advantages. The soil was richer and there was a school nearby where Abe and his sister Sarah could attend.

But still the land trouble plagued the father. This, together with a growing hatred for slavery, soon prompted the elder Lincoln to be on the march again. And this time the family headed for the Northwest where they crossed the Ohio River, and settled at Pigeon Creek, Indiana. In a way it was a strategic move, for it placed the Lincolns on Northern soil and made it possible, in his maturer years, for young Abe to play an extremely important role in shaping the destiny of his country.

The fourth and last move, while Abe was still at home and a member of the household, was early in 1830, to Macon County, near Decatur, Illinois. History has not revealed any valid reason for this change of scenery. However, it could have been due to the father's restlessness, commonly known as wanderlust.

With the completion of the last family migration, Abe was ready to assume full responsibility for the conduct of his own life, for he had now reached the age of twenty-one.⁶

Abe could not expect help from home that customarily came to a boy of this age, for his father was scarcely able, financially, to take care of himself. His father had no team of horses to give him; no acreage to share; no money to bestow upon him; no college education to offer. The best he could do was to say,

"Abe, you've been a good boy. Good luck and God bless you."

Abe had neither friends, profession, trade, patrons, nor influence. He did not even have a respectable suit of clothes. So, before he left home, he split four hundred rails for every yard of jeans that it took to make him a pair of pants. And to add a little touch of color he had them dyed brown with the bark of white walnut.⁷

But Abe had one virtue that was a valuable asset in this primitive country—his physical prowess. He was strong, vigorous, and healthy. He stood six feet four and weighed one-hundred and eighty pounds. He could outfight, outwrestle, outswim, outrun any boy in the neighborhood and was proud of it.

With a bundle thrown over his shoulder, and wearing his new brown jean pants, young Abe, with a heavy heart, bade farewell to father and mother and started out into the world alone, wondering what Dame Fortune might have in store for him. As for jobs, well, he could not be choosy—he had to eat. So he took the first job that came his way. He hired out to Denton Offut, a flatboat captain for forty cents a day, to help build a boat and take a cargo from Beardstown, Illinois, down the Mississippi to New Orleans.

After arriving in New Orleans and unloading, the crew decided to spend a month taking in the sights. As they roamed from place to place looking for excitement, they came across a slave market.

Abe had never before witnessed slaves sold from the auction block, and he was curious. At the moment a comely mulatto wench was being driven around the mart at the crack of a whip, like some prize animal. Prospective buyers were gathered about. They were feeling and pinching her, and discussing her good and bad points. The scene was revolting to the sensitive nature of young Lincoln.

"Boys," said he, "let's get away from this. If I ever get an opportunity to hit this thing I'll hit it hard!"⁸

UNIVERSITY OF HARD KNOCKS

The up-river journey was uneventful until the boat arrived at St. Louis, where the crew disembarked, and young Lincoln walked across Southern Illinois, a distance of one-hundred-fifty miles, to visit his parents who had again moved, this time near Charleston, Coles County, Illinois. An attack of fever and ague could have been the cause of this change of habitation.

At the conclusion of his visit at home, he returned on foot, to New Salem to take up his residence in the little frontier town of twenty log houses.

Denton Offutt, the flatboat captain, had been so impressed with the business opportunities of New Salem, that he decided to remain there and open a store. Offutt had given Abe his first job, after setting out for himself, and now, Abe was depending on him for another.

It was in New Salem that the flatboat bound for New Orleans with its cargo, a few months before, had floundered on the dam. And it was through the ingenuity of this tall bronze faced, sinewy lad, that the boat was maneuvered safely across. This feat brought cheers from the bystanders, and won for young Lincoln the acclaim of hero by the crew and crowd.

But New Salem was to mean far more to him than this simple honor—it was to become his training ground for future tasks—a place of trial and error—a kind of “University of Hard Knocks” from which he would emerge with his most startling discovery, the discovery of himself.

Offutt’s stock of goods soon arrived from St. Louis and the store was put in order; and Abe received his first assignment, a clerkship in Offutt’s new grocery store.

His orientation was rapid. The town and country folk

liked his friendly manner. He joked and swapped stories with them while he leisurely dispensed groceries across the counter. They respected his honesty, when it was learned that he had been willing to walk three miles, to return six and a quarter cents of extra change to a country customer. They respected his chivalry, when he took Charlie Reavis, a bully, by the coat-collar and the baggy seat of his trousers, and tossed him to the ground and rubbed smartweed into his eyes until he yelled for mercy, for swearing in the presence of ladies.⁹

At the age of twenty-three, having been a resident of the county but nine months, this ambitious youth threw his hat into the political ring and ran for the state legislature. He made known his position in a simple straight-forward speech delivered in 1832, at Pappsville, Sangamon County, Illinois.

He said, "Gentlemen and fellow citizens: I presume that you all know who I am. I am humble Abraham Lincoln. I have been solicited by my many friends to become a candidate for the legislature. My politics are short and sweet. I am in favor of a national bank. I am in favor of the internal improvement system and a high protective tariff.

"These are my sentiments and political principles. If elected I shall be thankful; if not, it will be all the same."¹⁰

According to a publication of the Old Salem League, a fight broke out in the audience while Abe was talking, and learning that one of his friends was getting worsted, he leaped from the stand, seized the enemy and lifting him bodily, slung him flat upon the ground. Then remounting the platform he finished his speech.¹¹

In his second speech delivered before friends and neighbors at New Salem, on March 9, 1832, a little over three weeks past his twenty-third birthday, he seemed to have been transformed suddenly, into a polished and persuasive political orator. He spoke now with the clarity of thought, color, tactfulness, and confidence of a seasoned campaigner.

After advocating a system of free education, which would

make possible for all to learn to read so that they could enjoy the Bible, to be informed about the histories of other countries, and to know more about our own free institutions, he closed with an intimate and elegantly expressed sentiment, setting forth his political aspirations.

"Every man is said to have his peculiar ambition. Whether it is true or not, I have no other so great as that of being truly esteemed of my fellow-men, by rendering myself worthy of their esteem. How far I shall succeed in gratifying this ambition, is yet to be developed. I am young and unknown to many of you. I was born and ever remained in the most humble walks of life. I have no wealth or popular friends to recommend me. My case is thrown exclusively upon the independent voters of the county, and if elected they will have conferred a favor upon me for which I shall be unremitting in my labors to compensate. But if the good people in their wisdom shall see fit to keep me in the background, I have been too familiar with disappointments to be very much chagrined."

However the Black Hawk War broke out in April, interrupting temporarily his political ambitions. A company was formed by the citizens residing in and about New Salem, and Abe enlisted. His popularity was on the up-swing, for his mates elected him to the top position—captain of his company.¹²

In his latter years Lincoln was quoted as saying, "No recognition in my early days was more heartily appreciated than the one that came to me through being elected captain of my company in the Black Hawk War."¹³

The Indian skirmish was of short duration; the company was mustered out at Whitewater, Wisconsin, on July 10, and the boys were back in their homes by the last of the month.

Abe, a Whig, and a Henry Clay man, entered again with renewed enthusiasm into his campaign for the legislature. He electioneered right up to the day of election, August 6, but in spite of hard work he was defeated.

It was true that he was not too "chagrined" with the outcome. For one thing he was deeply appreciative of the vote

given him by the home folks and neighbors. Out of 290 votes cast, Abe received 277.¹⁴ Also it was his first political fling, and there was much to learn. It was clear that political battles are not won by flights of oratory. There are other, and quite as important essentials. For instance, he was lacking in political finesse. He did not have an intimate acquaintance with all the important voters. He had not yet acquired a friendly handshake. He was neither a good backslapper nor an adept at baby kissing, both evidently an essential part of the bag of tricks of a winning candidate. Finally, viewing further his shortcomings, he concluded that he needed more of the essentials of good grammar.

So in February, 1833, he placed himself under the tutelage of the scholarly Mentor Graham, the village schoolmaster.¹⁵ At about the same time he fished out of the basement of the store a worn and stained copy of Blackstone and began the study of law. And as though he did not have enough to keep him busy, he added to his curriculum the subject of surveying. The knowledge gained from it he put to immediate use in the village and neighborhood in helping him to earn a livelihood.

Abe's first political break came when President Andrew Jackson appointed him village postmaster. President Jackson was a Democrat, while Lincoln was a Whig. But politics had nothing to do with the appointment to such an insignificant job. Abe attracted no little attention about town by delivering much of the mail in his tall hat.

Although awkward, ungainly, and homely of feature, Abe was not without his early romance. It was while boarding at the Rutledge tavern in New Salem that he met and fell in love with the tavern-keeper's daughter, attractive Ann Rutledge. But the romance was short-lived, for within a few months after they had met, Ann fell ill and died, leaving young Abe disconsolate.

Cultural subjects, war, politics, surveying, law and romance had so overwhelmed him that there was no room left for business. To him business had become drab, routine, uninteresting,

laborious. With a twinkle in his eye he often remarked to his friends, "Father taught me how to work but he never taught me how to love it."¹⁶

He had flunked the major portion of the courses in the University of Hard Knocks. As a business man he had been, as he so often expressed it, a "flat failure." The one bright spot in it all was his election two successive times to the legislature.¹⁷ His plans in that direction had paid off.

But his clerkship in the grocery store had provided only a scanty living; he had engaged in business for himself, but without financial gain; he tried partnerships and met with a similar fate. He bought, traded and sold grocery stores; and his entire transactions for five years added up to the distressing result of bankruptcy. Disconsolate and weighted down with debt, he sought new fields of endeavor. Borrowing a horse and putting his scanty belongings in the saddle-bags, he rode away.

In my imagination I have often followed him in those despairing moments as he trekked through sloughs and mosquito-infested swamps and forded swollen streams, to arrive alone and practically unfriended in the little city of Springfield, where he took refuge in an attic-like room above a dry-goods store, sharing it with a stranger.¹⁸

None knew better than he that life was one struggle after another. Cervantes wrote eloquently when he said, "He that loses wealth loses much, but he that loses courage loses all."

Young Lincoln's spirit had now sunk to a new low. He had lost everything of material value except the clothes on his back. But he had retained the one thing that could redeem him—that which would restore his self-respect, and give him a fresh start in life—his courage.

THE NEW LINCOLN

The days ahead naturally, were critical ones for the depressed Lincoln. He was not altogether unacquainted with his new environment in Springfield. He had occasionally visited this growing city of 1,500 population for social and business reasons, and he felt that it would not be long before he would be calling these strange faces by their first names.

There was no doubt that Lincoln was ambitious to improve his lot in life. Had this not been so he would have remained in New Salem. Living in Springfield with its larger population had its advantages.

In his first decision of consequence, he accepted a table in the law office of J. T. Stuart where he began his practice of law. He continued his interest in politics, and no doubt through an improved personality, and by dint of hard work, succeeded in being re-elected to the legislature for the third successive time. By careful saving of his earnings, he was able within a few years to liquidate what he called his "National Debt". Within five years after becoming a resident of Springfield, he courted and married the Kentucky belle, beautiful Mary Todd.

He had grown in stature, politically and socially, so much so that his advice and companionship were much sought after. It was through his influence that the state capital was moved from Vandalia to Springfield. His district had elected him to the legislature for a fourth term, and subsequently sent him to Congress. Ten years of residing in Springfield wrought many changes in the life of the once disheartened Lincoln, a Lincoln who during this short period of time had grown strong and confident—a Lincoln who had discovered himself, a new man.

At the close of his term in Congress, he did not "choose to run" a second time, but returned to his home folks in Spring-

field. He put aside politics and re-entered with renewed vigor into the practice of law. His jokes, wit and stories that brought him popularity while in the national Capitol later, made him the life of the party in the old home town.

None relished a good story more than he, and none could tell one more effectively. But a story had to have a point and a reason for using it. Said Lincoln, "It's not the story itself that interests—rather it is the purpose and the effect."¹⁹ An article published in Harpers Magazine of July, 1865 reported Lincoln as saying, "I remember a good story when I hear it, but I never did invent anything original. I am only a retail dealer."

It was the clerk of courts in Sangamon County who once said, "I was never fined but once for contempt of court. Judge Davis fined me five dollars. Mr. Lincoln had just come in, and leaning over my desk, told me a story so irresistibly funny that I broke out into a loud laugh. The judge called me to order saying, 'This must be stopped,' and turning to Lincoln, said, 'Mr. Lincoln, you are constantly disturbing this court with your stories.' Then glancing back at me, 'You may fine yourself five dollars.' I apologized, but told the judge the story was worth the money. In a few minutes the judge called me to him. 'What's that story Lincoln told you?' I repeated it to him and he laughed aloud in spite of himself, after which he quietly whispered to me, 'Remit your fine.' "

It was a cold stormy November day. Circuit court was being held in a distant school house. It was a fifteen mile ride, by horse back, to reach the place. Lincoln was a little late upon arriving. He dismounted, tied his horse and entered the little one-room building. Here he found most of the lawyers sitting around a log grate fire engaged in animated conversation. "Pretty cold," someone remarked.

"Yes," replied Lincoln. "About as cold as it is hot in Hades."

"Well, what do you know about Hades?"

"Been there," said Lincoln.

"Well, what is it like? Tell us about it."

Said Lincoln, "A good deal like it is here, most of the lawyers sittin' 'round the fire."

There was much rivalry in Illinois between the Whigs and the Democrats. On one occasion it was necessary for Lincoln to hire a horse to take him to a Whig gathering. The liveryman, a Democrat, picked out the pokiest nag he had—and Lincoln had a twenty mile jaunt to make. He had not gone far before he discovered that he had been tricked. He sensed that the speed of the horse would not be sufficient to enable him to reach his destination on time. However, by coaxing, spurring and pleading, he managed to make it. Upon his return he reproved his cunning political enemy. "Why, that old plug you gave me was the slowest thing I ever saw. Here is a word of warning; don't ever use that beast for funerals, for if you do, it is doubtful if the corpse would reach the grave in time for the resurrection."

Lincoln's opponent on the Democratic ticket, when he ran for Congress was the well known evangelist of his time, the Reverend Peter Cartwright. Cartwright was conducting a series of evangelistic meetings in a community near Springfield, and Lincoln attended one evening. During the service Cartwright called for all those who wished to go to Heaven to rise. Then he called for those who did not wish to go to Hell to rise. Lincoln kept his seat during both invitations. Finally the evangelist said, "I notice my good friend Lincoln is present tonight, sitting back there unmoved by these appeals. If he does not want to go to Heaven or escape Hell, will he please tell us where he does want to go."

Lincoln arose slowly and said, "I want to go to Congress."

A neighbor of Mr. Lincoln's said he was called to the door one day by cries of children in the street. There Mr. Lincoln was striding by with his two sons, Willie and "Tad," both of whom were wailing loudly.

"Why, Mr. Lincoln what is the matter with the boys?"

"Just what's the matter with the whole world," was Lincoln's reply. "I have got three walnuts and each wants two."²⁰



BIG COMPANY

An inadequate transportation system was then the plague of Illinois. The state was literally mired in the mud. Cities and towns were of necessity located on navigable streams and lakes. Inland territories remained undeveloped. Corduroy roads were not the solution of the transportation problem, for they were easily washed out, exceedingly dangerous to the hoofs and legs of animals, and not durable.²¹

Lincoln was among the first to advocate a new mode of travel, by rail. But how could it be obtained? The state had a fourteen million dollar debt and could not shoulder further financial burden.

However, through patience, maneuvering, and agitation, the problem was solved. The officials of the Illinois Central Railroad, finally came to the rescue and agreed to finance a stretch of road six hundred miles long, extending through a vast undeveloped wilderness; and much to Abe's surprise he was made solicitor.

As the road neared completion, the state levied a tax against its potential earnings. The counties followed suit. Double taxation threatened the very existence of the road. But Lincoln proved to be the man for the occasion. He evolved a plan whereby only the state could levy a limited tax. Such legislation was tested in the courts, and Lincoln won, saving the road and the company millions of dollars in taxes.²²

He sent a personal bill to the officials in New York for \$5,000. They were astounded at such an exorbitant fee. Why, they could have hired a New York lawyer for less than that!

Who was this lawyer from the sticks who dared to render such a bill! They refused to pay it. But Lincoln stuck to his guns. He sued, and won.²³

Up to this time, it was Lincoln's greatest triumph. His name now was one to be conjured with. No longer would he be considered a "sticks lawyer," but a formidable corporation lawyer, who could follow through with his cases, travel in big company, and collect big fees.



BIG CHANCE

Ominous clouds were looming upon the political horizon. The Missouri Compromise had been repealed. Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois was author of a new bill, the Kansas and Nebraska Act, that authorized the people to decide for themselves for or against slavery, thus establishing "squatter sovereignty and opening the territories to slavery." It was a bold stroke on the part of Douglas. Either it would make him president, or break him politically.

The conscience of the quiet, peaceful, prairie lawyer was now fully aroused. The chance of which he had spoken at the slave market in New Orleans had come. He must hit, and hit hard, to do what he could to help keep slavery from engulfing the nation.

In 1858, Senator Douglas was up for re-election. He returned from the Capitol to meet an "outraged constituency." He was denounced from pulpit and platform. His Kansas and Nebraska bill was condemned as "little short of treason." In his senatorial campaign, Douglas called his opponents a "mob," and they in turn dubbed him a "rowdy."

The date of the Republican state convention to be held at Springfield, to select a senatorial candidate was set for June 17,

1858. Lincoln, because of his views against the extension of slavery into free territory, and because of his reputation as a corporation lawyer, seemed to be the natural selection. He was approached, and nodded his assent.

He prepared an acceptance speech to be delivered before the delegates, in the Hall of Representatives of the statehouse the evening of the convention. However, a group of his political cronies persuaded him to give them a preview of what he was to say at a private hearing in the library, a few hours previous to the assembly.

Among his most challenging thoughts uttered on the state of the Union were: "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half free and half slave. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved. I do not expect that it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other."

Lincoln had scarcely completed the last phrase of his reading before a dissenter was on his feet. "I characterize this as darned fool utterance." Another said, "It will drive away voters fresh from the Democratic ranks."

But Lincoln was firm in his contention. "Gentlemen," he said, "this thing has been retarded long enough. The time has come when these sentiments should be uttered; and if it is decreed that I should go down because of this speech, then let me go down linked to the truth—let me die in the advocacy of what is just and right."²⁴

The biographer Herndon reports that later, Lincoln declared, "If I had to draw a pen across my record, and erase my whole life from sight, and I had one poor gift or choice left as to what I should save from the wreck, I should choose that speech and leave it to the world unerased."

Lincoln gave that acceptance speech to the convention delegates and was nominated for the senatorship. Later he met Stephen A. Douglas in what proved to be America's most spectacular series of political debates on the issues of the day.

The controversy did not end at the crossroad towns of

Illinois, where the debates were held, but was continued by the people throughout the North, on the street corners, around the cracker barrels in the grocery stores, on the camp grounds, and upon the public rostrums.

It was indeed a contest with strange results. It has had no counterpart in American history; for when it was over and the ballots were counted at the November election both had won and lost. Stephen A. Douglas won the senatorship but ultimately lost his most coveted goal, the presidency. Abraham Lincoln lost the senatorship but subsequently won the undisputed leadership of his party in the time of the nation's greatest crisis. This leadership helped to blaze the political trail which led straight to the White House.



RIGHT MAKES MIGHT

The East was now asking the question, "Who is this Lincoln?" For some time they had been watching with eager interest the meteoric rise of this Western prairie lawyer. From the time of the widely-publicized debates, Mr. Lincoln had been in demand as a public speaker. A trustee of the Plymouth Church of Brooklyn, New York, suggested that Mr. Lincoln be invited to come East and deliver a lecture. The suggestion ultimately grew into an invitation issued by a group of young Republicans. The invitation was accepted for two reasons: it would afford him an opportunity to visit his son Robert, who was attending Phillips Exeter Academy, and, more important, the two-hundred dollar honorarium would come in handy.

Mr. Lincoln understood, before leaving Springfield for the metropolis, that the lecture was to be held in the Plymouth Church, so he prepared an address that would fit into a cultural and educational atmosphere. However, upon arriving in New

York, he was informed that the place had been transferred to the popular forum, Cooper Union Institute.²⁵

Next day, Sunday, an interested group of friends called on Lincoln at the Astor House, where he was staying, and requested that he accompany them to the Plymouth Church for morning worship. Mr. Lincoln graciously accepted the invitation. It would also afford him an opportunity of meeting and hearing the pastor, the renowned abolitionist, Henry Ward Beecher.

Back at the Astor House that afternoon, Mr. Lincoln excused himself and retired to his room for meditation. What went on in the recesses of his mind in the quiet hours of that Sunday afternoon no one seems to know. And Lincoln himself, so far as I am able to ascertain, never revealed it. Whatever it was, the decision that he made was politically a momentous one. For he decided to revamp the prepared speech that he brought with him from Springfield to deliver from the pulpit of a great church. This change from Plymouth to Cooper Union Institute had put an entirely different light on the invitation to speak. No longer would it be necessary to confine himself to a cultural and educational subject. The doors were wide open. He could even discuss the political issues of the day—the all-absorbing topic, Slavery and States' Rights. In fact, that was really what would be expected of him.

To say that Lincoln was not politically ambitious would not be telling the whole truth. But he was not ambitious in the sense that Caesar was ambitious. He was a highly patriotic citizen. The welfare of his country had been very much a part of his thinking ever since he had failed as a young businessman in New Salem. He had been elected to the state legislature and to Congress, and had fought Douglas to a standstill for the senatorship. With the sting of that defeat still fresh in his mind, he would now have a chance to more than even the score. He had been mentioned as a possible candidate for the presidency. The Republican convention was less than four months away, and his chance to enlighten a new and influential group on the issues of the day had come. Not to take advan-

tage of it would be to commit a political blunder of the first magnitude.

Here we have the shrewd, calculating and determined Lincoln, planning the strategy of his future political fortunes. He entered upon the re-writing of his speech to meet this unexpected turn of events with confidence and enthusiasm. His stakes were high—his goal, the presidency.

It was on Monday evening, February 27, 1860, that a committee of leading politicians of New York City, waited on Mr. Lincoln at the Astor House, and escorted him to the platform of Cooper Union Institute. William Cullen Bryant, editor of the New York Evening Post, did the introductory honors in an appropriate and fitting manner.²⁶

Then, in ill-fitting store clothes and a pair of new boots which had so blistered his ankles that he was in physical pain, Abe Lincoln arose from his seat, and with a slight limp, walked to the edge of the high platform, to greet an enthusiastic and almost hysterical audience.

After a few well-chosen salutatory remarks, he began his address by reading from a prepared manuscript. His high-pitched, almost piping voice, his ungainly platform manners, together with a noticeable sectional accent and an unruly collar that bobbed up and down at the slightest provocation from each bodily movement, created a rather ludicrous picture. So much so that Noah Brooks, an eminent politician of New York, was moved to say, "Old fellow, you won't do. It's all very well for the wild west, but it will never go down in New York."

For the first fifteen minutes of Mr. Lincoln's address the audience was restless. The impression was not good. But during this time Lincoln was getting his second wind. His self possession was gradually returning. A deadly earnestness seemed to settle over his entire being. Suddenly he discarded his manuscript and began to speak with the freedom that was his when he was addressing a jury. Three thousand charmed listeners unconsciously found themselves electrified by the clarity of his thought, the soundness of his argument and the merit of his

cause. His speech was often interrupted with cheers and bravos. Noah Brooks had gone completely into reverse, and was all out for the Westerner. His words were words of praise and not of scorn. "Look," he said, "his face lights with an inward fire!" Another was heard to exclaim, "He's the greatest man since St. Paul!" And skeptical old Horace Greeley could no longer control his emotions, and before the occasion was over said, "That's the most powerful speech I ever heard!"

Lincoln rose that night to heights perhaps not reached heretofore by any other American.

"Wrong as we think slavery is," said he, "we can yet afford to let it alone where it is, because that much is due to the necessity arising from its actual presence in the nation. But can we, while our votes will prevent it, allow it to spread into the national territories, and to over-run us here, in these free states? If our sense of duty forbids this, then let us stand by our duty, fearlessly and effectively. Let us be diverted by none of those sophistical contrivances whereby we are so industriously plied and belabored; neither let us be slandered from our duty by false accusations against us; nor frightened from it by menaces of destruction to the government; nor of dungeons to ourselves. Let us have faith that right makes might: and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it."²⁷

Abe Lincoln sat down amidst thunderous applause, America's foremost champion of the cause of freedom and union. Undoubtedly he had set the stage for his own nomination for the presidency of the United States at the coming Republican national convention, in May, 1860.



FAVORITE SON

About three months later the Republican delegates gathered in Chicago, Illinois, to select a presidential nominee. It was a new and interesting experience for this rapidly growing fron-

tier city of the West, and its people were feverish in their preparation.

On the lake shore front, at the corner of Market and Lake streets, these enterprising citizens erected a temporary structure to house the delegates and spectators, which was given the name of "The Wigwam." It was a hundred and eighty feet long and about a hundred feet wide. The roof rose in the segment of a circle, so that one side was higher than the other. Across the sides and two ends were galleries and committee rooms. And facing the part without a gallery, was a platform upon which the delegates were to sit. The galleries were to be reserved for "gentlemen accompanied by ladies."

The Wigwam was a rough, crude, homely building constructed of pine boards, and accommodating 10,000 persons, 4,500 of whom would occupy standing room. The ingenuity and decorative genius of the Republican women of Chicago relieved much of its ugliness, by draping the pillars and galleries with green, and suspending from them American flags and the banners of the numerous delegations. Busts of notable Americans were arranged about the platform, entrances and exits. Portraits of American statesmen and paintings of justice and liberty occupied prominent spots on the walls. There were also unusual exhibits which attracted no little attention. For example, the seat of the chair used by the chairman was hewed out of an immense log mounted upon a large rocker. A special gavel provided for the occasion was carved from the wood of Commodore Perry's valiant ship "Lawrence."

For a week previous to the opening of the convention people of various trades, professions and businesses, continued to pour into the city, filling every available space. The New England delegation brought with it Gilmore's Band. New York came with 2,000 Seward men, accompanied by the most famous musical organization of the day, Dodworth's Brass Band. Pennsylvania brought more than 1,000 of her prominent Republicans. Half of the House of Representatives was there. Practically every street corner became a rostrum where harangues

were delivered in behalf of favorite candidates. Boisterous demonstrations as well as endless processions displaying flags and banners, continued in the streets without interruption each day throughout the week.

Top men of the nation could be found in smoke-filled rooms of hotels and seen mingling with the crowds on the streets. Among them were William Evarts, Tom Corwin, Carl Schurz, Thaddeus Stevens, Joshua Giddings, George William Curtis, Francis Blair, George Ashman, Gideon Welles and Thurlow Reed. A thousand editors and reporters were on hand, including such well known personages as Horace Greeley, Murat Halstead, Joseph Medill, Henry Villard and A. K. McClure.

At twelve on Wednesday, May 16, 1860, the big show opened with 465 delegates present. Governor Morgan of New York called the convention to order, then named David Wilmot of Pennsylvania as temporary chairman. The entire gallery space and standing room had been filled, and 40,000 strangers were milling about outside the Wigwam and in the streets, just to be close to this dramatic scene of action. In the galleries could be found the elite of Republian society. The women were conspicuous for their high peaked flower-filled bonnets, bright shawls and plaids.

The program had been carefully planned so as to conserve time and energy. Wednesday and Thursday were to be given over to the election of officers, the adoption of a platform, and routine business, leaving the remaining part of the week open for the choosing of a nominee. However, the early part of Thursday afternoon found the convention with the first objectives met; they could proceed immediately with the nominating speeches.

It was at this point that the supporters of the candidacy of Abe Lincoln showed a bit of well-thought-out strategy. Time would be a vital factor, for it would help to build up support for their candidate and break down the strength of the Seward forces.

Senator William H. Seward had been considered by leading

Republicans to be the strongest contender for the presidency, and had come to the convention with the largest delegate support. It was thought possible by some that he could be nominated on the second ballot. But Seward, having held public office for many years, was not without his political enemies. Horace Greeley, founder and editor of the New York Tribune, the most influential Republican organ came to the convention determined "to put a crimp" into Seward's presidential aspirations.

An avowed political enemy of Seward's he talked incessantly against him on the street corner, in the hotels, and wherever he could find anyone to listen to him. His contacts often started with a conversation and ended with a protracted speech.

Andrew G. Curtin of Pennsylvania, and Henry S. Lane of Indiana, both candidates for the governorship in their own states, were not altogether sure that if Seward were nominated, he could be elected president. And if Seward went down to defeat he would drag both of them down with him in the fall election.

It was also the consensus of those in the Lincoln camp that Seward could not win the nomination without a majority support from the Pennsylvania and Indiana delegates. They reasoned that those delegates were still vulnerable, and therefore should be thoroughly canvassed for their votes. This would take time, and could spell the difference between victory and defeat. This time could be obtained only by a temporary adjournment of the convention. It was discussed and decided upon. A motion was made and carried, that the convention be adjourned until Friday morning at ten o'clock. The quickness of the action almost took the wind from the sails of the Seward forces, but did not shake their confidence in the ultimate triumph of their candidate.

While adjournment would mean leisure for some, it would mean long arduous hours for the friends of Abe Lincoln. These friends retired to their hotel rooms to remain there for the

night. "Hundreds of Pennsylvanians, Indianans, Illinoisans," said Murat Halstead, "never closed their eyes." All through the night, with fanatical regularity, they interviewed delegate after delegate, discussing and extolling the virtues of their candidate, and horse trading for votes. While the Lincoln forces were working desperately, and at times almost in tears, the confident Seward men were putting on premature celebrations in the street just for pastime.

The long night was over and the nation would soon learn the results. Promptly at ten o'clock Friday morning, the convention was called to order. The crowd inside and out strained every nerve to catch the drift of events. Speeches of nomination began at once. A distinguished citizen of each of the states of Missouri, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio, arose and nominated its favorite son for the high office of president. William Evarts of New York came to the front, amid thunderous applause, to nominate its illustrious son, William H. Seward.

At the close of the speech, the New York delegation let out an indescribable, deafening roar that fairly shook the Wigwam. The length of the demonstration and the degree of the outburst took the Lincoln supporters by surprise. Not to be outdone, at least in noise, Lincoln supporters set out to collect every available rooter to be found in and outside of the Wigwam. Communications were arranged with one another through signals. Women were to wave handkerchiefs, while friendly supporters were supplied with American flags. Rails split by Abe himself, especially imported for the occasion, and displayed upon the platform, furnished the background for the nominating speech for Illinois' favorite son. The effect was electrifying. The nominating honors fell to N. B. Judd, state Republican chairman of Chicago, and close friend of Abe's, who rose and said, "Mr. President, I beg leave to offer as candidate before this convention for president of the United States, the name of Abraham Lincoln of Illinois." He was greeted with long and vociferous applause. Caleb Smith seconded for Indiana.

"When Smith had finished," said Leonard Swett, "5,000

steam whistles, ten acres of hotel gongs, a tribe of Comanches, headed by a choice vanguard of pandemonium, might have mingled in the scene unnoticed," so great was the jubilation.

As the demonstration quieted down, a voice rang out, "Abe Lincoln has it by the sound; NOW, let us ballot!" and Judge Logan fairly screamed to the convention, "Mr. Chairman, in order, or out of order, I propose that this convention and audience give three cheers for the man who is evidently their nominee."

To become the nominee of the convention a candidate had to pool 234 votes. The first ballot gave Seward 173½, Abe Lincoln 102, with scattered votes for other favorite sons. On the second ballot Pennsylvania threw her entire 52 votes back of Lincoln. A tremendous shout rocked the Wigwam. The swing to Lincoln had started. The second ballot closed with Seward having a total of 184 votes, while Lincoln had climbed to 181. On the third ballot Lincoln reached a peak of 231½—two and one-half votes short of a nomination.

Carter of Ohio was on his feet in an instant. "I a-arise Mr. Chairman to a-announce the change of four votes from Governor Chase to Abraham Lincoln."

"There was silence for a moment, and the next instant," wrote Murat Halstead, "there was a noise in the Wigwam like the rush of a great wind in the van of a storm, and in another breath the storm was there. Thousands were cheering with the energy of insanity."

A lone rooter climbed to the roof of the Wigwam and shouted to the world, "Hallelujah, Abe Lincoln is nominated!"

From the top of the same roof, cannons boomed forth the refrain. Thousands in the street took up the shout. "Abe Lincoln is nominated!" Locomotives, factory whistles, church bells sounded out the victory and the hills and valleys re-echoed it to the millions of firesides throughout the North, East and West.

With the nominating of Hannibal Hamlin, of Maine, for

Vice-President, the epoch-making Convention in the Wigwam was brought to a close.

It was late Friday afternoon in the little city of Springfield, that Abe Lincoln was standing in the doorway of a shop, chatting with a friend, having just completed an errand for Mrs. Lincoln, when a boy came running up to him from the telegraph office, shouting, "Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Lincoln, you've been nominated!" Within a few minutes, friends and neighbors came from every direction, some laughing, some weeping, and all anxious to be the first to congratulate him and to shake his hand.

Mr. Lincoln politely protested for a moment.

"I am glad to receive your congratulations but you must excuse me," he said, "for there is a little woman down on Eighth Street who also will be glad to hear the news."²⁸



THE GREAT AMERICAN INSTITUTION

Political conventions of the earlier period were notorious for their long and exceedingly noisy celebrations, and have come down to us with but slight changes.

In recent years the Republicans have introduced into their assemblies the portly elephant, symbol of their party, while the Democrats have brought to their conventions the lowly donkey, as their famous party emblem. The length of the celebrations have been shortened, but the new model continues to toot its horns with stops wide open.

This late model is a sort of paradoxical American institution. A close up gives one the impression of a three ringed circus, part clowning, part carnival, with a few of the virtues of the pulpit and platform thrown in. Some one has likened it to a family fight with the window shades drawn. I like the late Senator Vandenberg's description of it.

"You know all this could happen in only one country on earth today. There is a lot of hoopla to it, but every one in all the rest of the world would be glad to have our way of doing it."

It's true; the modern political convention is distinctly American, dramatized Americanism, yes, the Great American Institution.



THE PEOPLE SPEAK

The Summer and Fall days of 1860 found four political parties vying with each other for the highest political stakes of the nation. The Democrats were split into Northern and Southern wings. Douglas represented the Northern and Breckenridge the Southern; Bell headed the Constitutional Party; while Lincoln was the Republican nominee.

As the campaign moved into high gear, with the autumn days approaching, excitement ran high.

Listen to the words of Abe Lincoln, this political evangel, this "Apostle of Liberty," as he swung into the climax of his campaign, with stops wide open, pulling no punches and courting no favors.

"I know there is a God, that he hates injustice and slavery. I see the storm coming and I know that His hand is in it. If He has a place and work for me—and I think He has—I believe I am ready.

"I am nothing, but truth is everything. I know that I am right, because I know that liberty is right, for Christ teaches it, and Christ is God. I have told them that a house divided against itself cannot stand, and Christ and reason say the same, and they will find it so. Douglas don't care whether slavery is voted up or down, but God cares, and humanity cares, and I care, and with God's help I shall not fail. I may not see the

end but it will come, and I shall be vindicated; and these men will find that they have not read their Bibles aright.”²⁹

It was a resolute citizenry that went to the polls that somber day in November of 1860. The outcome of that battle of ballots meant freedom or bondage for some and unity or disunity for all. The people patiently awaited the verdict.

Their patience was rewarded, for Abe Lincoln, in whom they had placed their trust to hold the Union together and stop the flow of slavery into new territory, emerged from the tempestuous campaign a winner, the first Republican to be elected President of the United States. *America had discovered Lincoln.*

The people had spoken. Abe Lincoln had carried every state north of the Mason and Dixon line, except New Jersey, with a plurality of a little less than 500,000. But south of this line there were ten states that did not cast a vote for him.³⁰

The battle of ballots showed convincingly that we were in truth “a house divided against itself.”



REWARDS HIS ENEMIES

Lincoln was confronted with the herculean task of selecting a cabinet. Evidently he was well aware of the Scriptural adage, “I will reward them that hate me,” for he invited some of his most rabid political haters to share responsible positions with him in the cabinet.

For his large experience in governmental affairs, he chose William H. Seward of New York to become his Secretary of State. For his integrity, he offered the position of Secretary of the Treasury to Salmon P. Chase of Ohio. For his popularity, he tendered the position of Secretary of War to Simon Cameron, of Pennsylvania. Because of his strategic Western location, he asked Edward P. Bates of Missouri to accept the portfolio of Attorney General. To placate the East he requested Gideon

Welles, of Connecticut, to become Secretary of the Navy. Caleb Smith of Indiana was accorded the honor of Secretary of the Interior, for his loyal political support. And to appease the Democrats and the South, he insisted on Montgomery Blair, of Maryland, taking over the Postmaster generalship. Seward, Chase, Cameron and Bates were candidates against him for the presidency. They were all able men, but not one among them was considered to be a close personal friend.³¹

It took three weeks for Seward to make up his mind to serve. When he did, he said it was because he felt he was needed to save the Union. Chase said he would think about it and took until a few days before the inauguration before he sent his acceptance. He was later known as the chronic resigner. Cameron requested to be relieved from cabinet duties a year later. Lincoln filled the vacancy by inviting Edwin M. Stanton, of Ohio and Pennsylvania, to take over. Stanton willingly accepted.

Mr. Lincoln had had the profoundest respect for the ability of Mr. Stanton ever since the day that he had heard him plead in the McCormick Harvester case at Cincinnati, Ohio. However, Stanton did not have the same high regard for Lincoln's ability. He felt that the elevating of Mr. Lincoln to the presidency was a grave mistake, "a deplorable accident."

It was not uncommon for Stanton to give vent to his antagonistic feelings toward the President to his friends and office callers. On one occasion he referred to the President as a "damn fool." But Lincoln refused to be perturbed by such remarks. To the epithet of damn fool, his courteous reply was, "If Stanton thinks I'm a damn fool, I must be one, for he is usually right in these matters."³² On another occasion, Stanton characterized the President as "a long lean cadaverous critter who wore a cape for a coat, that was so splotched with sweat that it resembled the map of a continent."

WRITES OWN SPEECHES

With his cabinet worries temporarily out of the way, the next important task on Mr. Lincoln's political agenda, was the writing of his inaugural address.

With the secession of Southern states on the increase, and the nation in an upheaval, perhaps no previous inaugural address was awaited with more eagerness and anxiety. The most discussed question of the hour was—would there be peace or war. And only the newly elected President could give the satisfactory answer. The people were in such a frame of mind that they did not care to wait even until his inauguration for his views; they wanted them at once.

But Lincoln demonstrated that he was not a novice in politics and would not allow himself to be stampeded by his political enemies into making statements "off the cuff." His policy was one of silence on all controversial political subjects until the day of the delivery of his inaugural. This resolve he kept to the end.

In the preparation of this address, Mr. Lincoln did his own thinking and writing. Ghost writers played no part in the preparation of his political speeches. He was not unreceptive to other people's opinions, but was adamant should anyone try to interfere with his thought, style or policies.

His mode of procedure was to jot down ideas as they came to him upon scraps of paper, or on backs of old and discarded envelopes. After a goodly number had accumulated he pigeon-holed them for future reference.

A few weeks before he departed for Washington, he gathered up his scattered notes and retired to his secret retreat, a bare room above his brother-in-law's store, located in the business section of Springfield. Here, usually in the quiet of the

night and alone, he slowly molded his ideas into the finished product.

Upon the completion of the inaugural he turned it over to manager William H. Bailhache of the Illinois State Journal, who put it into type. On the train enroute to Washington, President-elect Lincoln courteously presented to his personal friends, Orville H. Browning and Judge David Davis, advance copies. After his arrival he supplied his Secretary of State Seward with a copy.

True to form, Seward assumed that the responsibility for the preservation of the Union rested squarely upon his shoulders; and spent almost all of the following Sunday in making copious suggestions for the already printed address. The critique covered nearly as many pages as the address itself.

But the President-elect did not seem at all perturbed by Seward's sudden display of arrogance. He weighed each suggestion in its relation to the whole, and incorporated those ideas which seemed to help to clarify his thoughts on the important questions of the day.



THE AFFABLE HOSTS

The latter weeks of 1860 and the early period of 1861 found the quiet, peaceful, prairie city of Springfield, Illinois, the home of President-elect Abraham Lincoln, suddenly transformed into a sort of glorified political capitol. The curious, the office-seeker and the well wisher from here, there, and everywhere, had beaten a path to the door of the reception room in the State House. Inventors brought their devices for Lincoln's inspection and opinion. Wood artists depicting him in his environs swamped him with their creations. Tall men trekked long distances to match heights with him. Young bucks with their brides and

sweethearts joined the queues, awaiting patiently their turn, to shake hands with him. Politicos were on hand to warn him and to shower him with their advice. And country and town folk of his own community sauntered around just to get a new look at "Old Abe" since he had suddenly become famous. Many came to shake his hand; a few were there to ridicule and make fun of him.

"I see," said one, "Old Abe is wearin' a new hat and a new suit." Another replied, "Yeh, and he has covered his face with whiskers. I reckon he's gittin' stuck up." Each day's mail brought new threats upon his life to disturb his peace of mind.

Even Mrs. Lincoln did not escape the stinging remarks of bystanders. Her ear was attuned to such expressions as, "Aha, is that the old woman!" Neither was her mail always free from sneak insults. Imagine her humiliation when she unwrapped a parcel containing a painting upon canvas portraying her distinguished husband with a rope around his neck, his ankles bound with chains, and his body covered with tar and feathers.

But all was not dismal and tragic with the Lincolns. There were bright spots that penetrated the gloom of a day's log. For instance, a politico from the State House of Columbus, Ohio, presented Mr. Lincoln with a unique gadget, a whistle made out of a pig's tail. This special gift brought a hearty laugh to his weary countenance and evoked a jocular remark. "I never before suspected, up to this time, that there was music in such a thing as a pig's tail."

An elderly woman came, dressed in country garb, and wearing upon her head a huge sunbonnet. "Mr. Lincoln," she said, "I want to give ye something to take back to Washington with ye." And reaching down into her reticule she drew forth a pair of blue woolen socks and handed them to Mr. Lincoln. "These are all I have. I spun the yarn and knit them myself." Mr. Lincoln accepted the gift, bowed graciously, and thanked her for her thoughtfulness. As she turned to go he arose and escorted her to the door with as much courtesy as if she had been the Queen of England. Upon returning to his chair, he

took the socks by the toes, one in each hand, scrutinizing them thoroughly, then holding them up in full view of his friends, excitedly exclaimed: "Well, the old lady certainly got my latitude and longitude 'bout right, didn't she."³³

The door to Mr. Lincoln's reception room was always open. There were no ushers, no reception committees, and no guards. Visitors came and went, as unceremoniously as if he had been a candidate for district judge. Mr. Lincoln was not unduly ruffled by the drift of circumstances, and like a good American he took the events in stride.

An intimate glimpse of Mr. Lincoln at the scene of action is given by Henry Villard reporting for the New York Herald.

"The concerned expression on the pallid cheeks of Mr. Lincoln tells a meaningful tale. However, he does not complain of any direct ailment. The vigor of his mind and the steadfastness of his humor are obviously unimpaired. He receives everybody with uniform kindness and is the very embodiment of good temper and affability."



FAREWELL TO HOME FOLKS

In the early days of February, with their soirees and public receptions over, and their home closed, Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln retired to the Chenery Hotel in Springfield, to await their departure to Washington.

Because of the many threats made upon her husband's life, Mrs. Lincoln was strongly urged by her friends not to make the journey until after Mr. Lincoln was safely anchored in Washington. But she did not heed the entreaties, and emphatically stated, "I shall remain at the side of my husband regardless of hazards."

A short time previous to his departure, Mr. Lincoln quietly

slipped away from Springfield, to pay a short visit to his aged stepmother and to bid her a last farewell at her home near the little Illinois town of Charleston. It was to her, in the darker moments of his boyhood, that he had turned for solace and encouragement. It was she who had helped him to carry out a resolution that he had made early in life: "I will prepare and get ready and maybe my time will come." Certainly, he thought, that time had now arrived, and he would pay his debt of gratitude before it was too late.

Upon his return, Lincoln was actively engaged in caring for final items of the business of moving, and bidding goodbye to the home folks. It was far more difficult than he had anticipated to tear himself away from the old friends with whom he had been chummy on the street, about the court room, and at the grocery store.

One of his most trying ordeals was to say a last goodbye to his law partner, "Billy" Herndon. Stealing away to that little one-room second-story law office, to which he was wont to go each morning for many years, he found his partner reclining in his customary chair back of the table, gazing out of the window. Abe crossed to the opposite side of the room and threw himself down on the office sofa. He lay there for a time without either speaking.

Finally Abe broke the silence.

"Billy, how long have we been together?"

"Over sixteen years," replied Billy.

"We've never had a cross word in all that time, have we?"

"No, Mr. Lincoln, none that I can recall." Herndon always addressed his senior partner as "Mr." Lincoln. *

A sign at the foot of the stairs announcing their partnership had swung on its rusty hinges through the years. "Billy," said Abe, "I've a request to make before I go. I want you to let the old sign hang as it is, undisturbed. It will give our clients to understand that the election of a president makes no change in the firm of Lincoln and Herndon. If I live I'm coming back

* R. E. Bendell, Lansing, Michigan.

sometime, and then go right on practicing law as if nothing had ever happened. Goodbye Billy."

"Goodbye, Mr. Lincoln," said Billy with moistened eyes "I shall never have another partner as long as you live."

Abe tarried for a moment, taking a last fond look at the old place, then he gathered up a bundle of papers and stuffed them into his tall hat, and with a few books tucked under his arm, disappeared through the open door and down the narrow stairway which led to the street. As he passed under the old squeaky office sign, the wind seemed to waft it with greater intensity, as if it, too, was anxious to wave a last affectionate goodbye."^{34A}

It was about 7:30 o'clock, February 11, 1861, a cold damp dismal morning, that Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln with their three sons, personal friends, and bodyguard, left the Chenery Hotel and rode to the Great Western Depot in Springfield.

More than a thousand friends, neighbors, and people from a distance, from various walks of life, had assembled at the railway station, on each side of the festively decorated train, to bid farewell to their honored townsman.

Soon after the arrival, Mr. Lincoln stationed himself at a vantage spot in the waiting room of the depot, where his friends filed by and took his hand for the last time. His face was pale and he was so overcome with emotion that he could scarcely utter a word.

At eight o'clock Colonel W. S. Wood, and Editor E. L. Baker of the Springfield Journal approached Mr. Lincoln to escort him to his car.

As the tall angular figure towering above the rest made his way through the multitude, there were cheers and frequent calls of "Speech, Abe, speech!"

At the train, Mr. Lincoln exchanged a few words with his wife, who then entered the car and took her seat. Mr. Lincoln remaining upon the platform, turned about and met the gaze of the cheering throng, and lifting his hand requested silence. He threw back his long cape and removed his tall hat.

The men likewise bared their heads and stood at respectful attention while the kind, humble, homey Abe Lincoln, now President-elect of the United States, addressed to them his parting words.

"My friends, no one not in my situation can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place and the kindness of this people I owe everything. Here I have lived for a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave not knowing when or whether I may ever return, with a task greater than that which rested on Washington. Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope all *yet* will be well. To His care commending you as I hope in your prayers you will remember me, I bid you an affectionate farewell."*

There was scarcely a dry eye in the crowd. Choked exclamations went up: "We'll do it—we'll do it! Goodbye, Abe, stick to the constitution and we'll stick to you!"

Abe Lincoln lingered silently for a moment with fixed gaze upon familiar scenes and faces; then turned, entered the coach and took his seat with Mrs. Lincoln and the children. The long journey to the Nation's Capitol had begun.

U. S. Senator Fred T. Dubois from Idaho said that his brother, who was at the station, never forgot Lincoln's sorrowful face as he bade all of them farewell."³⁴

*This is Nicolay's version of the famous farewell.

Part II

AMERICA DISCOVERS LINCOLN

SPRINGFIELD TO WASHINGTON

The Presidential Special, was made up of an engine, baggage, smoking and passenger cars, beautifully decorated with flags, engravings, evergreens and other devices. The train, which traveled thirty miles an hour, was in charge of L. Tilton, president, and W. C. Whitney, conductor, and J. J. S. Wilson, superintendent of the Union Telegraph Company. It had everything in readiness to make telegraphic connections at a moment's notice.

Some of the important personages aboard the Special out of Springfield for Washington were Colonel Ward Hill Lamon, Colonel R. E. Ellsworth, Hon. N. B. Judd, Hon. W. S. Woods, Judge David Davis, John George Nicolay, Esq., John Hay Esq., Dr. W. S. Wallace M.D., Lockwood Todd, George Latham, J. M. Burgess, Colonel E. V. Sumner U.S.A., Major D. Hunter U.S.A., and Captain John Pope. There were other friends of Lincoln, and numerable politicians and friends who joined the party at various stops, riding for a day or so and then dropping out. In many instances delegations from the cities where important stops were to be made were sent on ahead as ambassadors of goodwill to greet the party previous to the arrival of the train.³⁵

This pre-inaugural trip of the President-elect was fraught with danger as well as political significance. Numerous threats had already been made upon his life. But the composed Lincoln, believing the good to be accomplished outweighed the potential dangers, embarked upon his charted course with no visible traces of fear or apprehension.

To paint an accurate word picture of what took place at the seat of events along the way over ninety years removed from the present, is a difficult task. Such a picture could be easier to

comprehend, should one in his imagination re-live the recent fabulous acclaim given to General Douglas MacArthur upon his return from the Orient, at San Francisco, Washington D. C., and New York City. For the Lincoln and MacArthur demonstrations bore a marked resemblance to each other.

One should also keep in mind in shaping the picture that the centers of population in 1861 were not so populous as today. Nevertheless the noisy, tumultuous throngs that greeted Lincoln taxed the capacity of walks and streets, and at times overflowed the cities. At the receptions the oratory from the tongues of governors, mayors, and other top-flight officials was no less ornate than contemporary oratory, while the enthusiastic welcome was every bit as fervent, and the cordiality as genuine.

As one follows the President-elect and his party from city to city, he should keep in mind the tenseness of the national political situation. The entire country was in a turmoil. The states of the Southland had begun to secede and preparations were in the making for a new seat of government for the rebellious potential Federated States. A new political party had been born and had elected its first President, which added to the confusion; for the South was jealously suspicious of almost his every act. But the North remained steadfast in support of Lincoln, and staked her hopes on the efficacy of his wisdom to maintain order and keep the Union intact.

There was little doubt that Abraham Lincoln entered upon his perilous and arduous journey with but one object—that of meeting the people and testing their political pulse. This somehow might enhance his chances of uncovering the secrets that could lead to a solution of the colossal problems confronting him as he was about to take the oath of office as chief executive of the nation.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

On the train that afternoon enroute to Indianapolis, Mr. Lincoln discovered that the satchel containing his inaugural address was missing. He had entrusted it to his son Robert, who in turn had inadvertently handed it to a waiter, and the waiter had mislaid it. The episode caused no little excitement among the passengers and crew. But after much searching it was discovered in the baggage car. With the return of the satchel, Mr. Lincoln reprimanded his son for neglect of duty and henceforth assumed full responsibility for the care of the all-important address.

The Special arrived at the station at 4 o'clock amidst the booming of thirty-eight cannons, and a din of noise from "an acre or more" of frenzied people. The party was met at the train by a reception committee headed by Indiana's Governor Morton. After Mr. Lincoln had made some brief remarks, he, Mrs. Lincoln and the children, were ushered into a waiting carriage which was drawn by four beautiful white horses. The procession passed down Washington Steet, flanked on both sides by a yelling, cheering mob. Mr. Lincoln stood up in the carriage and acknowledged the cheers with a gentle bow. The occasion was enlivened by marching fire companies, three brass bands, and the firing of artillery salutes. The buildings were gaily decorated with flags and streamers, and the windows were stuffed with people even including the third and fourth floors. The streets were so crowded that many were in danger of being trampled upon. Workmen who had not left their jobs in years took a holiday to get a good look at "Old Abe." And they were not disappointed, for he was easier to look at than they had anticipated, and they liked his free and affable manner.

Upon reaching the Bates House, the center of the festivities,

the crowd was so dense that it became necessary to lift Mr. Lincoln above their heads and into the hotel, where he made his way up to the balcony from which he was to address the multitude.

After a short introduction by Governor Morton, Mr. Lincoln said:

"Governor Morton and fellow citizens of the State of Indiana: Most heartily do I thank you for this magnificent reception, and while I cannot take to myself any share of the compliment thus paid, more than that which pertains to a mere instrument, an accidental instrument, perhaps I should say, of a great cause, I yet must look upon it as a most magnificent reception, and as such, most heartily do I thank you for it. You have been pleased to address yourselves to me chiefly in behalf of this glorious Union in which we live, in all of which you have my hearty sympathy, and, as far as may be within my power, will have, one and inseparably, my hearty consideration. While I do not expect, upon this occasion, or until I get to Washington, to attempt any lengthy speeches, I will only say to the salvation of the Union, there needs but one single thing—the hearts of a people like yours. (Applause)

"The people, when they rise in mass in behalf of the Union, and the liberties of their country, truly may it be said, 'The gates of hell cannot prevail against them.' (Renewed applause)

"In all trying positions in which I shall be placed, and, doubtless I may be placed in many such, my reliance will be placed upon you, and the people of the United States—and I wish you to remember, now and forever, that it is your business, and not mine, that if the Union of these states, and the liberties of this people, shall be lost, it is but little to any one man 52 years of age, but a great deal to the thirty millions of people who inhabit these United States, and to their posterity in all coming time. It is your business to rise up and preserve the Union and liberty for yourselves and not for me.

"I desire they should be constitutionally performed. I, as already intimated, am but an accidental instrument, temporary,

and to serve but for a limited time, and I appeal to you again to constantly bear in mind that with you and not with politicians, not with presidents, not with office seekers, but with you, is the question: Shall the Union and shall the liberties of this country be preserved to the latest generations?" (Cheers)

In a second address at Indianapolis, Mr. Lincoln took for his subject "Coercion and Invasion." He explained these terms in their relation to the troubled situation existing between the Northern and Southern states. He used apt illustrations, phrasing his language in the form of questions, allowing the people to make their own applications from what he said.

The address reminded one of the parables used by the Master, to drive home simple truths.

He closed with, "Fellow citizens, I am not asserting anything, I am merely making questions for you to consider. Now allow me to bid you farewell."

Sidelights

The comment of the Indianapolis State Guard, evidently an opposition paper, was not favorable. "We have heard speeches," stated the editorial, "in our day from Presidents Monroe, Jackson, Van Buren, Harrison, Tyler and Fillmore, but really we have not heard anything to be compared to this one from Lincoln, so remarkable for gross levity. Forty-five thousand people, it is said, came from all parts of the state to hear the President say something designed to soothe their apprehensions—to give them hope that he would pursue a policy calculated to restore peace to the country.* What did they hear? Some unintelligible stuff about "Regular Marriage," "Free Love," "Homeopathic Pills," and such like nonsense, far inferior to what is delivered on many stumps by candidates for the lower house of the legislature. The people were much disappointed in him in many respects. They did not see as ugly a man as his likeness made him out, and they did not get anything positive from him as to his

*Yet Lincoln had clearly made it known before he left Springfield, that he did not intend to discuss controversial political questions until after his inauguration as President.

future policy upon the great question now convulsing the country.”

In President-elect Lincoln's room at the Bates House, a rich melodramatic scene took place on the morning of February 12, when two of his cronies, J. K. Dubois and E. Peck bade him goodbye. They hugged him and told him to “behave himself like a good boy in the White House, and even cut a lock of his hair from his head with which they rushed triumphantly out of the room.”³⁶



CINCINNATI, OHIO

About 10:30 o'clock carriages received the Lincoln party and drove to the Union Station from which they departed for Cincinnati, Ohio.

The train had not gone far on its journey before a committee from Cincinnati, Covington, and Newport, Kentucky, of which the Hon. D. K. Este was chairman, came aboard the Special and joined the Lincoln party, providing an escort into the city. The committee was made up of both Republicans and Democrats.

“Within a few moments the entire party was engaged in a lively exchange of wit and humor. The President-elect was the merriest among the merry and kept those around him in a continual roar.”

Four stops were made between Indianapolis and Cincinnati, and at each Lincoln appeared upon the platform to say a few words and to listen to the firing of guns and vocal and instrumental music prepared for the occasion.

At the stops Tad and Willie Lincoln would hurry from the train, mingle with the crowd and shout to a bystander, “Do you want to see Old Abe?” Then they would point to some tall stranger, hide behind their elders to watch the fun, and hop back on the train again.

At 3:00 o'clock P.M. of the same day the suburb of Porkopolis hove into sight and the train reduced its speed to provide for the safety of the crowd which lined each side of the track leading to the Cincinnati Station. The crowd to greet the President-elect was enormous. Not only were the streets impassable but every elevation, freight car, coal dump, house top, lumber pile, treetop was alive with humanity.

The reception took place at the Burnett House. The President-elect was introduced by Mayor Bishop who said, "Honored sir: In the name of the people of all classes of my fellow citizens, I extend to you a cordial welcome, and in their behalf I have the honor of offering you the hospitalities of Cincinnati. Our city needs no eulogy from me. Her well known character for enterprise, liberality, and hospitality, is not more distinguished than her fidelity and undying devotion to the Union of these United States, and a warm filial affectionate regard for that glorious ensign which has 'braved the battle and the breeze' upon land and sea so many years. The people under the solemn and dignified forms of the constitution have chosen you as President of the United States, and as such I greet you. I welcome you to our noble city, and trust that your short stay with us may be an agreeable one, and that your journey to our federal Capitol may be pleasant and safe."

In reply Mr. Lincoln said, "Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen: A few hours ago I stepped out of the capitol of Indiana. I said to myself I have never seen so many people together on any occasion whatever. I am no longer able to say that. But it could reasonably be expected of this great city of Cincinnati. I confess myself entirely overwhelmed with the magnificence of this reception. I will not say it was given to me but to the President of the United States of America. Most cordially do I thank you one and all for it.

"I have been reminded by the Mayor that this reception is given not by any one political party: and if I had not been so reminded by His Honor the Mayor, I could have known the fact by the extent of the multitude. I could not but have known

that all parties join in this reception. This is as it should be. It is as it should have been if Mr. Douglas had been here; as it should have been had Mr. Bell been here; as it should have been had Mr. Breckenridge been here; as it should have been, and should forever be when any citizen of the United States is constitutionally elected President.

"And allow me to say, I think what happened here could not happen in any country of the world without the influence of free institutions that we have enjoyed in the United States for three quarters of a century."

Then speaking briefly of the difficulties which had arisen between the states, and affirming that he would treat Kentuckians and those of the South as Washington, Jefferson and Madison had treated them, he closed with these fitting words:

"Trusting that the good sense of the American people under the providence of God who has never deserted us, that we shall again be brethren and forget past differences, and hoping that this may be so, fellow citizens, I bid you farewell."

Sidelights

Lincoln's appearance prompted many odd comments from the crowd. One old lady who had prided herself on seeing a "power of presidents" in her day, was overheard to remark, "Ef I was a man and elected President and couldn't go on to Washington and take my seat 'thout bein' gygraded like Linkum, I'd stay at home." "Do you believe," inquired someone else, with an appearance of great earnestness and some incredulity, "that Linkum ever split a million rails in one day." "Old Abe's" physique was freely discussed, and like the crowd in Indianapolis, people seemed disappointed in not finding him as atrociously ugly as he had been represented.

It was written: "The throng of human beings, men, women and children, massed about the Burnett House exhibited a higher state of condensation than we thought possible. Mixed in with the crowd were a number of street cars and several private carriages, the horses of which became frightened and

pitched about, to the imminent danger of those about them. The crowd swayed and surged back and forth and it did seem as if someone would be crushed to death. Among them were several females who were forced to undergo a higher degree of pressure than was agreeable, to the imminent peril, not only of the sympathy of their hoops, but of limbs and life itself. We observed several small children of different denominations, elevated above the crowd, and literally passed over heads to places of safety, thus saving them from certain death which would have followed had they once gone down. Corpulent gentlemen came out of the crowd considerably thinner and several inches longer. An attempt was made several times to get up a general fight, but they were so densely packed as to preclude any exhibition of the manly art."

This conversation was overheard during the procession, "Hel'lo Harry." "Hel'lo John, where have you been?" "Why I've come from the corner of Fourth and Vine streets, where I saw the largest funeral procession for our country that was ever before looked upon by an American citizen."³⁷



COLUMBUS, OHIO

A special committee selected by Governor Dennison of Ohio had been sent to Cincinnati to invite the President-elect to visit Columbus. With the invitation accepted, the Lincoln party left the station in Cincinnati, at eight o'clock February 13. The route taken was over the little Miami and Columbus and Xenia Railroad.

The party was met at the station by a committee headed by L. Donaldson, Esq. Upon alighting from the train, Mrs. Lincoln was escorted to the Governor's residence, while Mr. Lincoln was driven directly to the Governor's office at the capitol. Here he was introduced to Governor Dennison, by the Hon.

James Monroe. After brief ceremonies Mr. Lincoln was ushered into the House of Representatives and was introduced by Governor Dennison to Lieutenant Governor Kirk, who made the address of welcome. In part he said, "Mr. Lincoln, it is my pleasurable duty in behalf of the people of Ohio, speaking through the General Assembly, to welcome you to their capitol. On this day, and probably this very hour, the Congress of the United States will declare the verdict of the people making you their President.* Never in this history of this government has such painful responsibility rested upon the chief executive of the nation as will rest upon you. Never since the memorable time our patriotic fathers gave existence to the American Republic have the people looked with such intensity of feeling to the inauguration and future policy of a future President, as they do to yours. I need not assure you that the people of Ohio have full confidence in your ability and patriotism, and will respond to you in their loyalty to the Union and the constitution. It is the earnest prayer of our people that the same kind of Providence which protected us in our colonial struggles and has attended us thus far in our prosperity, will imbue your mind with wisdom that you may dispel the dark clouds that hang over our political horizon and thereby secure the return of the harmony and the fraternal feeling to our distracted and unhappy country. God grant their prayers may be fully realized. Again I bid you a cordial welcome to our capitol."

The report of Mr. Lincoln's address was imperfect owing to the impossibility of taking notes under such crowded conditions, but he replied substantially as follows: "Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives: It is true, as has been said by the President of the Senate, who I believe addressed me, that great responsibility rests upon me, in the position I have been placed by the votes of my fellow citizens. But in order to discharge it I must look for the only support which will enable me to fulfill the obligations resting upon me, the support of the American people, and that

* Lincoln's election was officially confirmed at Washington, D. C. February 13, 1861.

of God who has always been with the American people. Owing to the interest felt in my position and policy, I have received censure from one portion of my countrymen and some degree of praise from another for my silence. I am satisfied that it is best to remain silent. I do not do so for my desire for party strength, or popularity, but because I judge the course pursued the best under the circumstances. Through all the varying incidents of the past few months, with its shifting scenes and without precedent, I preferred to see the whole field, and understand the matter in all its phases. We may have differences of opinion but no side is losing.

"I have been obliged to speak extemporaneously, and without preparation, so I'll only say, that I heartily thank you gentlemen for the very handsome reception you have given me."

At the conclusion of his speech, Mr. Lincoln retired to the rotunda where he met and shook hands with thousands of citizens until five o'clock, after which he returned to Governor Dennison's office for some much needed repose.

Sidelights

At an early hour in the evening the rooms at Governor Dennison's residence were crowded with guests, uncomfortably so. The best arrangements were made to prevent any inconvenience or unnecessary annoyance. On entering the hall a servant directed the visitors to the dressing rooms, upstairs where hats and coats were deposited, descending, another waiter met guests and pointed the way to the reception parlor where Mr. Lincoln was holding his levee, the Governor introducing the new arrival by name. The President-elect was in full evening dress, and appeared as fresh and unwearied as though he had not traveled a mile or performed a tithe of labor imposed on him by the programme. After conversing a few minutes with him, the guests retired to another parlor where Mrs. Lincoln held court in true matronly style assisted by Mrs. Dennison. Mrs. Lincoln was a very pleasant lady, courteous and unassuming and with a smile and cordial greeting for all. She was rather below the

medium height with a prepossessing face and engaging manners. She was attired in a very rich dark figured silk, with head-dress to match. After paying their respects to the President-elect and lady, the gentlemen amused themselves by conversation and interchange of opinions respecting the future chief magistrate until about eight o'clock, when supper was announced.

A sumptuous table was spread with all the delicacies of the season, and a large number of waiters, who relieved everyone else of any trouble but masticating the viands. After supper, the President-elect and his suite returned to the capitol where the ladies of the city called on him until a late hour.³⁸



PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lincoln party left Columbus, Ohio, Thursday morning, February 14, at eight o'clock by special train in charge of conductor Fell, over the Central Ohio and Steubenville R. R. for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

For the safety of the party Governor Dennison requested two of his aides, Colonels O'Harra and Mygatt, to accompany the party as far as Cleveland.

The trip was uneventful until Pennsylvania was reached, when between Rochester and Baden, a freight wreck occurred which delayed the presidential party.

It was a dismal evening of this day when the train pulled into Allegheny City, Federal Street Station, at about 8:30 o'clock, in a deluge of rain, three hours behind schedule.

Mr. Lincoln and entourage were met by a committee headed by Mayor Drumm, of Allegheny City. Those in charge of the reception, not knowing just when the train would arrive, had used up much of the ammunition reserved for the occasion in a pre-arrival celebration. But reverberations still lingered from

Boyd's Hill and Monument Hill as the train finally approached the station.

Among the first of Pittsburgh's citizens to reach Mr. Lincoln was a tall lanky teamster by the name of Henry Dillon. Pushing and jamming his way up to the President-elect he said, "Mr. Linkim—I'm as tall as you." To which Mr. Lincoln replied, "Let's match heights back to back." This was done, and Mr. Lincoln, noticing that he, himself, was at least two inches taller than the teamster, exclaimed, "Why, I can lick the salt off your head!"

Officers soon took charge of the boastful teamster, and proceeded to make a way for Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln to escape from the multitude.

Upon reaching the street, which was ankle deep in mud, the party was guided to open waiting carriages and driven directly to the Monongahela House on Smithfield and Water streets, in Pittsburgh, overlooking the Monongahela River. Here a reception committee including Mayor George Wilson received the distinguished guests. The crowd was so dense that to gain entrance to the hotel a passageway had to be cleared with bayonets. The President-elect had not yet reached his room when there were cries of "Speech, speech, Abe!" It already had been considered by the committee, that owing to the lateness of the hour, lengthy speech-making should go over until the next day. But the crowd was insistent and Mr. Lincoln slipped to the front of the balcony and spoke a few words to the hilarious water-soaked Pittsburghers.

"I have made forty speeches in the last three days. In addition to this I've just been through a wreck. I am very tired, but I have been asked to say a few words about Allegheny County. I have great regard for it. It is the banner county of the State of Pennsylvania, if not of the entire Union. (Three cheers for Honest Abe.) It gave to the cause a majority of 10,000 votes."

Just then a heckler had to have his say, "No rail-ing Abe!" which remark was followed by hearty guffaws from the crowd.

"I appear now for the purpose of coming to an understanding as to the best manner of closing this scene for tonight. I shall now inform you that tomorrow morning I shall address you in broad daylight at 8:30 o'clock from this balcony, when you will have the opportunity of seeing my handsome physiognomy. With these few words I'll say, for the present, good night."

The morning of February 15 was smoky and rainy; Pittsburgh was dressed in her darkest and deepest blue. The whole sky looked as if the city and surrounding country was a "huge meerschaum" from which arose clouds of smoke both "wreathed and extended." But Pittsburghers were not to be kept inside, smoke or rain. The President-elect was in town.

Enormous numbers were milling about the Monongahela House and on the river wharf awaiting the appearance of Mr. Lincoln upon the balcony. The crowd was orderly, but precautions were taken to guard more closely the life of Mr. Lincoln, because Pennsylvania was a border state, and extra militia was supplied, in charge of Brigadier General J. S. Negley, to meet any emergency.

It is doubtful that any man of his time or before in the history of the United States, in so short a space of time, had created so much interest, and caused so many people to flock to see and hear him. It seemed that at each stop en route the throngs grew larger and noisier.

At a little past eight o'clock the next morning Mr. Lincoln and party appeared upon the Monongahela Hotel balcony. Lincoln was introduced by Mayor George Wilson, who said, "It affords me sincere pleasure to tender you in behalf of my fellow citizens the kind greetings and the hospitality of the citizens of Pittsburgh. It rarely occurs that an opportunity is afforded the people for an exhibition of their devotion to the Union by a tribute of respect to the person of their chief magistrate. It is singular, therefore that the merchant, the mechanic and the laborer, lay aside his usual vocation and come out in strength to pay homage to a man whom the people

have called to preside over the destiny of the nation. We greet you sir, not only as chief magistrate of the nation but as a harbinger of peace to our distracted country."

And Mr. Lincoln in reply launched into what proved to be the longest speech of his journey. While he did not reveal his hand as to what he would do to allay the existing uncertainties, he did try to express himself in a way that would restore their shaken confidence in the government. Pointing his finger in what he thought was a southerly direction (it was really west), he said:

"And notwithstanding the troubles across the river, there is really no crisis springing from anything in the government itself. In plain words, there is no real crisis except an artificial one." (Laughter and applause)

Entering into a rather lengthy discussion of the tariff he offered illustrations of what could be done to protect American industry, and closed by begging consideration for speaking at length, saying, "I have spoken longer on this subject than I intended."

There were cries of "Go on, go on!"

"I shall say no more at present."

Immediately following the address the procession moved to the railroad station across the Allegheny River in Allegheny City (a town that has since been annexed to Pittsburgh) where the presidential party was to entrain for Cleveland, Ohio. A press reporter gives a detailed and amusing account of the event.

"The crowd was fearful, not even the warlike aspect of General Negley, or the bristling bayonets of the military, being capable of withstanding the pressure. A high picket fence surrounds the platform from which the party started. But what was a picket fence when the President was on the other side of it? Small boys coaxed big men to throw them over bodily, after which little episode, they jumped up as unconcerned as if such a course of treatment was their chief delight. Boatmen took out their knives and deliberately whittled off pickets enough to give them a passage. Tall men climbed over, and fat men grimly

swore at the one-sidedness of their views. Women were there too. Two girls forced their way to Mr. Lincoln's side and begged a kiss, which was readily granted by him, upon which tremendous cheers went up from the spectators, and hundreds of feminines, from four year olds to grandames, wished that they could claim the same privilege. Then there was cheering and cries of 'speech' and rushing and crowding enough for an army, and the shouts that went up from the rail-splitters would have been noxious doses to any stray seceder who might in the 'course of human events,' been near enough to hear. But all things must have an end so at last the train moved off, with Cleveland, Ohio, as its objective, amid a wild tumult of glorious enthusiasm on the part of the host of presidential admirers which it left behind it."

Sidelights

The crowd that greeted Lincoln in front of the balcony of the Monongahela House was estimated to have been about 10,000.

The carriage in which President-elect and Mrs. Lincoln rode from the station to the hotel was drawn by six white horses. The occupants were completely drenched. The carriage was open and the ride was taken in a downpour of rain.

"Bob" Lincoln seemed to have a heavy heart in Pittsburgh, owing to the meeting of a Columbus beauty that he could not quite dismiss from his mind.

Mr. Lincoln was dressed in a long black frock coat and he wore a stiff hat. A comment was made that he might look like a tired old farmer to any small boy.

Lincoln was entertained at dinner by a group of civic leaders, who after seeing and hearing him adopted a watch and wait policy.

"President-elect Lincoln is by no means handsome yet he possesses an intelligent countenance and a gentlemanly mien."

A bystander was heard to remark, "He seemed no better

informed on the tariff than he was on the directions when he pointed with his finger across the river and called that south."

Still another said "He has facial angles that would not break a looking glass."

The military escort included the Washington Infantry, the Pittsburgh Blues and the Pennsylvania Dragoons. The crack military corps, the Duquesne Greys, refused to participate.

"Lincoln has come and gone. He made a favorable impression. He was not ungainly in personal appearance, nor ugly in face as made out to be, but is by no means a handsome man. His reception was warm. However, he did not embrace the opportunity to declare himself for the compromise and concession which is so urgently demanded by all true friends of the Union, both North and South. Lincoln seemed determined to conceal his policy to the last moment. The people have ceased to look for any good results from the progress of Mr. Lincoln through the country. It is a farce of the most puerile and trifling description. It is time that this 'Prince of Rails' had ceased his triumphal ovations and turned his thoughts to serious matters, which must soon demand his attention. The country is bleeding at every pore, and yet Mr. Lincoln goes on with his rare show and says there is no crisis."³⁹



CLEVELAND, OHIO

The train leaving Allegheny City was drawn by the "splendid locomotive, Comet" and was in charge of engineer Williamson, who had run the same engine three years. His assistant as far as Wellsville, Ohio, was young "Bob" Lincoln. Changing engineers at Wellsville—S. L. Johnson took over. Johnson had spent many years on the water and was known as "Old Salt." He had the reputation of being as "bold and as cautious as a lion. Short stops were made at Alliance, (for dinner) Ravenna,

Hudson, and Newburg, Ohio, where Mr. Lincoln took a bow and made short speeches to the gathered throngs. In Ravenna, the firing of artillery close to the coach of the train, slightly shattered it, causing broken glass and splinters to be showered upon Mrs. Lincoln, but without hurt or damage.

All day long trains brought thousands of people to Cleveland, with but one object, to get a good look at the "Rail Splitter" who was to lead this nation through what appeared to everyone to be a great crisis. The surrounding territory added to the already crowded thoroughfares those who came by wagon, horseback, and on foot. By three o'clock in the afternoon, Euclid Street was alive with humanity. The multitude extended for more than two miles on each side. The street was deep with mud, for the weather had been alternating for some time between snow and rain.

It was one minute past four o'clock in the afternoon when the train pulled into the Euclid Street Station amid the booming of cannons. Mr. Lincoln stepped from the train, leaning upon the arms of two members of the City Council committee, and proceeded through the station to the carriage awaiting him. As he did so, he smiled and bowed somewhat stiffly and awkwardly. The carriage was an open barouche, drawn by four white horses, and driven by Henry Nottingham Esq. The procession moved down Euclid Street. Windows, doorways, and porches were crowded with spectators. The streets and buildings were gaily decorated with flags, buntings and pictures of Lincoln. Bands played from various vantage places along the street. Among the gorgeously decorated homes was that of J. G. Hussey's, and when Mr. Lincoln's carriage arrived opposite it, a stop was made to receive Mr. Hussey who walked out, shook hands with the President-elect, and introduced his little daughter who presented Mr. Lincoln with a huge bouquet of flowers, for which she was rewarded with a kiss. When the entourage arrived at the hotel, the Weddell House, a throng had gathered which made the entrance to the hotel almost impassable.

It was about 5:30 o'clock when Lincoln appeared upon the

balcony. There were two addresses of welcome. The first by President Masters of the City Council, who said, "Honored Sir: The pleasant duty devolves upon me to extend to you in behalf of the citizens of Cleveland, through municipal representatives, a cordial welcome to this city and community. In extending this welcome, I am but speaking the voice of our men of business, our merchants, whose numerous representatives around, of farmers who have largely gathered here, of men of all trades, avocations, professions, and parties, who merge all distinction, in the name common to all, and best loved by all—AMERICAN CITIZEN. They bid me welcome you as the official representative of their country, chosen in accordance with the constitution they venerate and love. They bid me express to you their unconditional loyalty to the constitution and the country which their fathers transmitted to them and which they fervently hope may by the blessing of God, be transmitted unimpaired to their children's children. Again I bid you a hearty welcome."

Joining with President Masters, Judge Andrews said, "Mr. Lincoln, Sir: I have the honor in behalf of the citizens of Cleveland to repeat the welcome you have already received through the official organs of the city, and to express the great satisfaction that we all derive from this personal interview. We come today sir, to tender you the homage of our sincere respect both for your personal character and for the high station to which you have been called. We will cherish the hope that by the blessings of Divine Providence you may be enabled to execute the great trust confided to you as to allay excitement, correct misapprehension, restore harmony, and reinstate this glorious Union of ours in the affections and confidence of the whole people. There is not a man in this vast multitude here assembled to do you honor, who will not give you his cordial and earnest support. Fellow citizens, I have the honor of introducing to you Honorable Abraham Lincoln, the President-elect of the United States."

Mr. Lincoln said, "Fellow citizens of Cleveland and Ohio: We have come here on a very inclement afternoon. We have

marched two miles through rain and mud. Your large numbers testify that you are in earnest about something. And what is that something? Do I desire that you should think this extreme earnestness is about me? I should be exceedingly sorry to see such devotion if that were the case. But I know that it is paid to something worth more than any one man, or any 1,000 or 10,000 men. A devotion to the constitution, to the Union, and the laws, to the perpetual liberty of this country. It is fellow citizens, for the whole American people, and not for one single man alone.

"In a country like this, where every man bears on his face the marks of intelligence, where every man's clothing, if I may so speak, shows signs of comfort, and every dwelling signs of happiness and contentment, where schools and churches abound on every side, the Union can never be in danger. I would, if I could, instill some degree of patriotism and confidence into the political mind in relation to this matter. I think that the present crisis is altogether an artificial one. We differ in opinion somewhat. Some of you didn't vote for him who addresses you. Although quite enough did for all practical purposes to be sure. (Cheers and applause) But if we don't make common sense and save the good old ship, nobody will. It is a matter of interest to all that it should be so.

"To all of you then who have done me the honor to participate in this cordial welcome, I return most sincerely my thanks, not for myself, but for liberty, the constitution and the Union. I bid you all an affectionate farewell."

Sidelights

The Lincoln party was entertained at the Weddell House. Colonel Ross reserved for their use twenty-two suites at the front of the hotel. The suites were composed of a parlor and one or two bedrooms. The Lincoln rooms were large and elegantly fitted up with all the conveniences and luxuries known to the art of hotel-keeping. Mrs. Lincoln was provided with a reception room in addition to other rooms, where she could

receive her friends free from the crowds attendant upon the general reception.

A grand reception was tended Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln in the evening. The dining hall was handsomely festooned with national flags and decorated with paintings of national historical events. The reception was from seven until nine o'clock in the evening. The balcony on the Superior Street side, from which Mr. Lincoln addressed the citizens of Cleveland, was draped with flags and hung with a beautiful array of colored lanterns.

The citizens seemed to have a "sort of Simeon satisfaction in shaking the hand of the great Lincoln, forgetting that his greatness was yet imaginary."

Mrs. Lincoln was prepossessing in her looks and conversation. Mr. Lincoln only in the latter. Bob favored his mother in looks.

"Signs are abundant that Mr. Lincoln is growing in the affection of the people, and that in a short time party prejudice and all ungenerous suspicions will fall before sincere esteem and love for the man himself."

At the close of Mr. Lincoln's speech from the balcony of the Weddell House the ladies presented him with a huge bouquet of flowers.

"While honest 'Old Abe' stood six feet four, in the crowd last night that other 'Old Abe' (McIllrath) backed up to Lincoln's back, and reaching over, patted the President-elect on the head saying, 'I'm taller than the President-elect.' He was six feet six."

Weddell House Registrations

"A. Lincoln and Lady two children and servant; R. T. Lincoln; Col. Sumner; Col. Ellsworth; Col. Haynd; George Nicolay, private secretary to the President (John G. Nicolay); Jno. Hay, ass't to W. Neil Dennison, Col. Ward H. Lamon; George Latham; L. M. Todd; N. B. Judd; Dr. W. S. Wallace; Judge D. Davis; W. S. Wood; Foraes; Cap't Pope, U.S.A.; Gen. Read and party, Erie; W. P. Haskin; C. B. Trego; J. P. Wetherell; A. J. Catheroad; Geo. Wm. F. Small, Philadelphia commit-

tee; H. Villard, New York Herald; Henry Lovie, Frank Leslie's; W. P. Painter, Philadelphia Inquirer; Terrill, Cincinnati Gazette; J. R. Drake, Associated Press; O. H. Dutton, New York Tribune; J. Howard, N. Y. Times.

"The ardent and admiring devotees of 'Old Abe' gave him more attention than they did their pockets last night as the following will show. The losses, as far as we have heard, are about as follows:

Charles Ryder lost wallet and.....	\$ 4.50
R. C. Seldon lost wallet and.....	40.00
G. S. Richards lost wallet and papers.....	
H. Stoery lost wallet.....	19.00
Esq. Benham lost wallet.....	24.00
J. Ranney lost wallet.....	40.00
C. A. Dean lost wallet.....	25.00
Levi Johnson lost wallet.....	7.00
Mr. Martin lost wallet.....	8.00
E. Cleveland	
S. J. Johnson lost wallet.....	58.00
C. Howard lost wallet.....	35.00
Cuyahoga Falls	
G. H. Safford Norwalk, lost wallet.....	33.00
R. C. Pier lost wallet.....	9.00
Man from Ashtabula lost wallet.....	40.00
H. F. Gaylord gold watch (\$125.00)	
Cash \$50.....	175.00
We will report the rest when they come in.	
No Democrats in the above list."	

(Reported by Cleveland City Facts and Fancies.)

The floats and organizations taking part in the procession were: the wagons of the American and the United States Express Company, filled with the company employees. A miniature ship full rigged and upon wheels, carrying a cannon and a large number of people. Omnibusses containing the workmen of the Forest City Tool Company with banners. Omnibusses containing the Cuyahoga Steam Furnace workmen, some 75 in all, bearing banners, one of which bore a picture of the President, and another with the inscription "We Forge Bonds To Bind The

Union." Members of the Phoenix Engine Company No. 4 and Firemen's Board. Thirty or forty young men mounted and escorting Robert Lincoln the President's son. The light Dragoons under the command of Colonel Barnett. The Cleveland Greys under Captain Paddock. Carriages containing the President and party, the City Council and the Citizens' Committee.⁴⁰



BUFFALO, NEW YORK

On the hour of nine on February 16, a crisp sunny morning, quite in contrast to the weather of previous days, Mr. Lincoln and suite bade goodbye to the warm hospitality of the citizens of Cleveland and boarded their special train for Buffalo.

The curious that gathered at the whistle stops along the way had neither diminished nor lost their interest in trying to get a glimpse of their much-talked-about, rail-splitter President-elect.

The original make-up of the Lincoln party that had left Springfield, nearly a week before had undergone some changes. A few old faces had dropped out, while new ones had joined up, at various stops. Mr. Lincoln was taken completely by surprise when Horace Greeley, stormy petrel, editor and founder of the New York Tribune, out on a lecture jaunt, climbed aboard at Girard, Ohio.

The first stop in the State of New York was at Westfield. The party was at once made to feel at home through a huge banner conspicuously displayed across the street bearing the inscription, "Welcome to the Empire State."

Entrance into the state recalled to Mr. Lincoln's mind two incidents. New York was the home state of his one time rival for the presidential candidacy, but now his potential Secretary of State, William H. Seward, and he should not be unmindful

of this in his round of talks; and Westfield was the home of a little girl, a newly found correspondent, who during his recent campaign had made to him a very meaningful suggestion with which he had considerably complied.

The Masterpiece

With his Westfield talk over, Mr. Lincoln startled the crowd by making a request. "Could there be by any chance a little girl in the crowd whose name is Grace Bedell, if so will she please come to the platform?" "Yes" shouted a native. "Here she is right here!"

Unsteady of foot, but nevertheless proud and happy, Grace picked her way through the cheering throng to the Special, and mounted the steps to the platform, where her newly made friend was waiting to greet her. Here is the letter Grace wrote which contained the meaningful suggestion, that now had lifted her to the very pinnacle of her dreams.

Westfield, Chautauqua Co.

New York, Oct. 15, 1860

"Dear Mr. Lincoln:

My father has just come home from the fair and brought home your picture. I am a little girl 11 years old but want you to be president of the United States very much. So I hope you won't think me very bold to write to such a great man as you are. Have you any little girl about as large as I am, if so give her my love and tell her to write to me if you cannot answer this letter? I have got four brothers and part of them will vote for you anyway. And if you will let your whiskers grow I will try and get the rest of them to vote for you. You would look a great deal better, for your face is so thin. All the ladies like whiskers and their husbands would vote for you and then you would be president. My father is going to vote for you, and if I was a man I would vote for you. When you write your letter address to Grace Bedell, Westfield, Chautauqua County New York."⁴¹

Mr. Lincoln lifted his little friend to a place beside him on the platform, and gently pressing a kiss to her blushing

cheek, much to the delight of all the home folks, heartily thanked her for the letter and thoughtfulness.

Yes, little eleven year old Grace Bedell had made her entrance and exit on the political stage. Her part was small, and her words were few, but she played them well; and in that short span of time created a masterpiece, a "New Look" on the face of "Old Abe" that has lingered in the memories of men for nearly a century, and has become a kind of symbol of Democracy for lovers of freedom everywhere.

It was early afternoon and the Lincoln Special moved slowly on toward its evening destination. Dunkirk was to be the last stop before Buffalo. Here Mr. Lincoln assumed the roll of actor. Instead of making the customary speech, he chose to dramatize the situation. Stepping to the rear platform, he took two American flags, and placed one on each side of him; then clasping a flag staff in one hand, he turned and faced the crowd, and said: "Will you my countrymen stand by me so long as I stand by it?" The act and sentiment was electrifying. Shouts went up, "We will, We will!"

The engineer brought the Special to a halt in Buffalo at 4:30 o'clock that afternoon. Mr. Lincoln appeared upon the platform attended by Mr. Clapp and committee, Mr. Lincoln's distinguished predecessor in office, ex-President Millard Fillmore and Acting Mayor Bemmis. The jam in and about the station was tremendous. Women fainted and men were carried from the crowd with broken ribs. Once away from the maddening multitude some were heard to utter a brief, "Thank God for the preservation of my life."

The procession upon leaving the station proceeded immediately to the American House where room reservations were awaiting the party. Upon arriving, President-elect Lincoln was escorted directly to the balcony by the committee, and was introduced to the throng by the acting Mayor, after which he addressed the citizens of Buffalo.

"Lincoln's speech on the balcony was marked by the abundance of qualifying expressions, and the reticence of unnec-

essary remarks, which belong peculiarly to the legal or judicial mind. Its most important thought was that he entered upon his onerous duties untrammelled, pledged to no procrustean policy, but firm in principle, and hoping to reconcile the best good and the perpetuity of the Union, with the principles and platform on which he was elected. On all hands we hear expressions of content and satisfaction with his speech; to which his self-possessed and self-reliant manner, with accuracy and precision of diction, lent additional force and character. It was a well considered utterance, designed, we thought, as the speech of a man who had no longer a right to consider himself a partisan."⁴²

Sidelights

In the evening, a reception was given at the hotel. Mr. Lincoln receiving in the hall, and Mrs. Lincoln and Robert in the parlor. Mr. Lincoln stood on a slightly raised platform, surrounded by a few friends, while a bodyguard detached from "D" Company kept the crowd in line. A kindly smile lighted up his truly genial face, and his fatherly attention to the children and gallant manner to the ladies won their hearts most effectually. Many of the little girls were lifted up and kissed by the President, and some of the mothers evidently wished they were "a child again." Indeed it is said that one of the trio of ladies, who had been duly presented, upon leaving Mr. Lincoln, looked over her shoulder and exclaimed, "The dear soul, how I should like to kiss him!" Mr. Lincoln promptly responded that he was not averse to such "labial inflictions," and the ceremony was duly performed on all three of the blushing belles.

Advanced notices were circulated that President-elect and Mrs. Lincoln would attend Sunday services conducted by the Reverend Doctor Lord, in his church on Pearl Street. At an early hour the auditorium was packed. The congregation patiently awaited the arrival of the distinguished guests. But long after the hour of worship they were still waiting expect-

antly. A similar situation occurred in the church of Dr. Clarke's. "These two ministers for once preached to a packed house."

"At the usual hour of service, former President and Mrs. Fillmore, together with the President-elect, Abraham Lincoln, drove up to the First Unitarian Church, alighted from their carriage, and quietly entered the church and were ushered to the Fillmore pew. Approximately a hundred persons were present in addition to the regular worshippers. It was a rare and impressive sight; the sunlight streaming, in mellowed tints, through the stained glass gave additional beauty to the already beautiful sanctuary. The venerable pastor in the background, the past and incoming Presidents, humbly joining in devout aspirations, presented a scene not to be forgotten. And when the pastor in his touching and eloquent prayer alluded to the chief magistrate, there were few dry eyes in the church. It is proper to state that Mr. Lincoln listened with profound attention to a masterly sermon by the Reverend Dr. Hosmer. After the church services, Mr. Lincoln with ex-President and Mrs. Fillmore drove to the American House to call for Mrs. Lincoln, who with her husband was to be the guest of Mr. Fillmore for the day."

During the celebration an election bet was paid off. The loser was to saw a cord of wood in front of the American House and present it to the poorest Negro to be found. A little before Mr. Lincoln began his speech the loser appeared in front of the balcony at the hotel, with a wagon loaded with a cord of wood, unloaded it while Mr. Lincoln was speaking and began sawing with all his might.

"Father Beeson, the Indian's friend, addressed a respectable audience upon his subject, the wrongs practiced upon the Western Indians by border settlers and government agents. He has lived in Oregon among the Indians and speaks of what he has seen and known. He spoke of falsehoods, treachery, ravishment and murder, which he himself had known and showed how millions of public money, given to the Indian Department, was stolen

away by villains, who make more money by Indian wars, and base robbery, than they could make by cultivating the earth or digging gold.

"The audience was deeply interested. Many eminent persons were present, among whom we noticed ex-President Fillmore and the President-elect Mr. Lincoln. It shows what spirit our new President is to be in his high office—that amidst all the fatigue of his journey and receptions he should leave his hotel and quietly and alone go to hear the wrongs of the poor friendless Indians. May God help him to do them justice.

"Our people have their opportunity of seeing Mr. Lincoln, and forming an anxious estimate of his personal qualities upon observation. The result we believe to have been generally satisfactory. In personal appearance, Mr. Lincoln's strangely convertible face wears at times a dreamy absent expression, in which even amidst a crowd, he seems to turn upon himself in reverie. But in an instant thereafter, on the call of any duty, his countenance flashes out in one of the most hearty, cordial, animated expressions we have ever witnessed."^{42A}



ALBANY, NEW YORK

At 5:45 on the morning of February 18, the train under the command of John Corning of Buffalo, bearing the presidential party, left Buffalo for Albany, the capital of New York. The party was escorted to the train by "D" Company 74th Regiment. The presidential car which was furnished by the Central Road, was elegantly fitted up with sofas, center tables, mirrors and carpets. The accoutrements were in excellent taste. The locomotive was decorated with flags and "moved off" in grand style on the moment. As the entourage passed through the smaller towns, the usual greetings of the citizens were "salutes of salvos."

The first stop was for five minutes at Batavia, where thousands were gathered. Mr. Lincoln spoke for only a few minutes. Here a committee from Rochester met the party, and upon reaching that city the train was stopped at the state crossing, and the committee escorted the President-elect to the balcony of the Waverly Hotel where he was vociferously welcomed by the mayor and 10,000 people. Mr. Lincoln responded briefly; and amid a salute from the cannons on Falls Field, the train dashed forward at 7:50 drawn by the locomotive "Dean Richmond" elegantly decorated for the occasion.

Immense crowds were assembled at Palmyra, Lyons and Clyde, but no stops were made, except for three minutes at Clyde, until Syracuse was reached, at about ten o'clock. Here a platform had been erected at the west end of the station, from which President-elect Lincoln addressed the vast throng that waited to greet him.

A brief reception was tended the party at Utica, the last stop before arriving at Albany, at 2:20 p.m. A salute of twenty-one guns from the Observatory was fired by Archibald Young, the same official who fired the salute at the time of the execution of John Brown. This coincidence was a painful reminder of an earlier tragedy, and had a tendency to mar to some degree the pleasures of the day.

A few minutes later the train arrived at the Broadway crossing where a platform had been erected by the Central Railroad Company. The locomotive drawing the special train was the "Erastus Corning Junior" a "new and handsome one." Some delay occurred by the military not reaching the grounds in time, and the crowd became impatient, by repeated cries of "Come out on the platform," "Get off the cars," "Show us the Rail Splitter!", "Trot out Old Abe!" Finally the music was heard in the distance and soon the 25th Regiment under command of Colonel Bryan, marched on to the ground and took up their position and cleared the platform and made a pathway for the President-elect and party.

Upon the completion of these arrangements Mayor Thacher

appeared upon the platform and delivered his address of welcome.

"Mr. Lincoln: In behalf of the Common Council and the citizens of Albany, I have the honor to tender to you a cordial welcome to our city. We trust that you will accept the welcome we offer, not simply as a tribute of respect to the high office you are called to fill, but as a testimony of good will of our citizens without distinction of party, and as an expression of their appreciation of your eminent personal worth, and their confidence in your patriotism. We are aware that your previous arrangements with the state authorities, and the brevity of your stay, will compel us to forego the pleasure of extending to you, on the part of the city, other and more befitting hospitalities; but we are happy to know that His Excellency the Governor and the senators and representatives in the legislature are about to receive you as the guest of the Empire State; and in so doing they will represent the kind regards of the whole people, as well as of the citizens of the capital. Permit me, therefore, to greet you in the name of our citizens, and to repeat the assurance of a most cordial welcome."

Mr. Lincoln made a brief reply after which the presidential party and distinguished guests proceeded to the carriages awaiting to carry them to the capitol. A very handsome barouche drawn by four fine bay horses and furnished by the livery of Thomas Wilson was occupied by President-elect Lincoln, Mayor Thacher, Senator Ferry and Mr. Ball of the Assembly. The procession made its way up Broadway and State streets direct to the capitol.

The whole route was crowded with citizens and the windows of the houses presenting an attractive array of Albany beauty. "Flags were displayed in profusion; however, in one of two instances bad taste of partisanship was shown. Across Broadway was displayed a strip of canvas with the inscription, 'Welcome to the Capitol of the Empire State. No more Compromise.' From the Y.M.C.A. a banner floated with this inscription, 'We will Pray for You the defender of the Constitution as it is.' "

In the capitol park an immense crowd of people were gathered. The task of the military and the police in preserving anything like order, and the clearing the way for the President-elect and party was by no means easy and agreeable. Upon reaching the capitol Mr. Lincoln was at once escorted to the executive chamber. Here he met Governor Morgan, Hon. Ira Harris U. S. senator-elect. Among other notables present were Hon. David R. Floyd, secretary of state. Hon. James M. Cook, bank superintendent. Hon. H. H. Van Dyck, superintendent of public instruction; Comptroller Dennison; Mr. Barnes, head of the insurance depot; Mr. Parmalee, canal appraiser; Harvey Kidd; Mr. Charles Hughes, clerk of Court of Appeals; Adjutant General Reed; Commissary General Welch; Inspector General Jackson; Col. Morgan, aide-de-camp to the Governor; Quarter Master Van Vechten, and Major Linsly.

Mr. Lincoln was accompanied by the Senate and Assembly committee, and the committee of the Common Council. He was briefly introduced to the Governor by Mr. Ball, chairman of the Assembly committee.

Gov. Morgan shook Mr. Lincoln long and cordially by the hand, and said: "Mr. Lincoln, I am glad to take you by the hand."

Mr. Lincoln replied: "And I am very glad to meet you, Governor."

Gov. Morgan then inquired: "How have you stood the fatigue of the journey?"

"Well, Governor, better than I expected."

The Governor then conducted Mr. Lincoln out of the chamber to the top of the capitol steps, where he was greeted by a perfect roar of applause, the people rushing forward to obtain a sight of his countenance, and for a time defying the efforts of soldiers and police to keep the line. Mr. Lincoln gazed around upon the immense crowd, for the whole park was filled with people and scores of men and boys had taken up their stations in the trees, in apparent amazement at its vastness, and,

turning to the Governor said, "Do you think we can make these people hear us?"

Gov. Morgan replied with a dubious shake of the head, and made one or two efforts, by waving his hat, to still the noise of the multitude, but in vain. The hoarse roar of the people, the shouts and remonstrances of the soldiers and police, the clashing of bayonets and the breaking of glass—for several panes were smashed in the pressure—made a din and confusion that rendered the speeches that followed, mere dumb-show, except to those in the immediate vicinity of the speakers.

Gov. Morgan then welcomed the President-elect, as follows: "Honored Sir, chosen as you have been to the highest and most responsible office in the nation or on the globe, and journeying as you are to the federal Capitol to enter upon your public duties, you have kindly turned aside, upon the invitation of the legislature, for the purpose of a brief sojourn at the capital of New York. On behalf of the people, irrespective of political opinion, it is my privilege to greet you, and to extend to you a cordial welcome. If you have found your fellow-citizens in larger numbers elsewhere, you have not found, and I think will not find, warmer hearts, or a people more faithful to the Union, the constitution and the laws, than you will meet in this time honored city of the capital. The people thank you, Sir, for the opportunity you have thus afforded them of manifesting to you, no less for yourself, personally, than for the high office you are destined to fill."

Loud cheers followed Gov. Morgan's address, when Mr. Lincoln replied, in part: "Mr. Governor, I was pleased to receive an invitation to visit the capital of the great Empire State of this nation on my way to the federal Capitol. And now I thank you, Mr. Governor, and you, the people of this capital, and the people of the State of New York, for this most hearty and magnificent welcome. If I am not at fault, the great Empire State at this time, contains a greater population than did the United States of America at the time she achieved her independence. I am proud to be invited to pass through your

capital and meet your people as I now have the honor to do. I am notified by your Governor that the reception is given without distinction of party, and I accept it more gladly because it is so. Almost all men in this country attach themselves to political parties. It is but ordinary charity to attribute this to the fact that in so attaching himself to the party which his judgment prefers, the citizen believes he thereby promotes the best interests of the whole country. But when an election is past it is altogether befitting a free people that, until the next election they should be as one people. The reception that you give me this day, is not given to me personally—it should not be so—but as the representative for the time being, of the majesty of the nation.

“I have neither the voice nor the strength to address you at any greater length. I beg you will accept my most grateful thanks for this devotion, not to me, but to this great glorious and free country.”⁴³

Sidelights

At about the time that the Special train bearing Abraham Lincoln President-elect and suite was nearing the capital of New York, another episode in American history quite as dramatic was being enacted in far away Montgomery, Alabama. Jefferson Davis was being sworn in as the first President of the newly created Federation of the States of the South. The dispatch dated February 28, 1861, at Montgomery, Alabama, stated, “that the inauguration ceremonies were the grandest pageant ever witnessed in the South. There was an immense crowd on Capitol Hill, consisting of the beauty, military, and citizens of the different states. At exactly 1 p.m. Jefferson Davis began his inaugural speech.

“Gentlemen of the Congress of the Confederate States of America, friends and fellow citizens: Called to the difficult and responsible station of chief executive of the provisional government which you have instituted, I approach the discharge of the duties assigned me with a humble distrust of my abilities,

but with sustaining confidence in the wisdom of those who are to guide and aid me in the administration of public affairs, and an abiding faith in the virtue and patriotism of the people. Looking forward to a speedy establishment of a permanent government, to take the place of this, and which by the greater moral and physical power, will be better able to combat with the many difficulties which arise from the conflicting interest of separate nations, I enter upon the duties of the office to which I have been chosen with the hope that the beginning of our career as a confederacy, may not be obstructed by hostile opposition to our enjoyment of the separate existence and independence, which with the blessing of Providence we have asserted, and which by the blessing of Providence we intend to maintain.

“Our present condition achieved in a manner unprecedented in the history of nations, illustrates the American idea, that government rests upon the consent of the governed, and it is the right of the people to alter and demolish governments, whenever they become destructive to the ends for which they were established.”⁴⁴



NEW YORK CITY

At 7:45 o'clock a.m. Tuesday, February 19, the crack corps—the Albany Burgesses, with Captain Kingsley and Mayor Thacher—marched to the Delevan House and there received Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln and party, and proceeded to the Special of the Northern Railroad which was waiting to convey them to Troy. At eight o'clock the train moved off amidst the booming of cannons and the cheers of countless citizens. The locomotive, “Union,” was attached to the coaches which drove the party from Albany to Poughkeepsie. The “Constitution” completed the haul from Poughkeepsie to New York.

The train was in charge of Hon. Samuel Sloan, president of the company. Stops and short speeches were made at Troy, Hudson, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, and Peekskill; and the train arrived in New York at the station of the Hudson River Railroad Company, 30th Street, between 9th and 10th Avenue, at 2:55 o'clock in the afternoon. The jam of humanity gave the party a rousing welcome with cheers, the blowing of whistles and the ringing of bells.

Upon alighting from the train, President-elect and Mrs. Lincoln were driven to the Astor House in a carriage drawn by six black horses.

Enroute to the hotel, huge banners were displayed bearing the inscriptions:

FEAR NOT ABRAHAM, I AM THY SHIELD
AND EXCEEDINGLY GREAT REWARD!
GENESIS 15, 1

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

IT IS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF DESTINY
THAT ABRAHAM LINCOLN IS TO BE
THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES

WELCOME
MAY GOD PRESERVE THE UNION AND
GIVE ABRAHAM LINCOLN WISDOM AND
STRENGTH TO RULE OVER IT

WELCOME
ABRAHAM LINCOLN—WE BEG
FOR COMPROMISE

WELCOME, WELCOME
NONE TOO SOON

WELCOME
TO THE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND PROSPERITY
TO HIS ADMINISTRATION
AND OUR UNION

The party arrived at the Astor House at about 4:30 p.m.

The reception in New York must have been peculiarly gratifying to Mr. Lincoln. He was escorted to the Astor House by the Common Council in carriages. The line of the route along 9th Avenue, 23rd Street, 5th Avenue, 14th Street and Broadway, was crowded with spectators, almost equalling the turnout to witness the Japanese and Prince of Wales pageants.

At the Astor House Mr. Lincoln was waited upon by various delegations of Republicans, and made several brief speeches.

The ships in the harbor, particularly those of the London, Liverpool and Havre lines, were handsomely decorated with bunting; and the Stars and Stripes waved from many flagstuffs on the New York, Brooklyn and New Jersey sides of the river. Mayor Wood formally received Mr. Lincoln at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning, in the Governor's room of the City Hall.

"It becomes my duty," the Mayor said, "to extend an official welcome on behalf of the corporation. In doing so, permit me to say, that this city never offered her hospitality to a man clothed with more exalted powers or resting under graver responsibilities than those which circumstances have devolved upon you.

"Coming into office with a dismembered government to reconstruct, and a disconnected and hostile people to reconcile, it will require a high patriotism and an elevated comprehension of the whole country, its varied interests, opinions and prejudices, to so conduct the public affairs as to bring it back again to its former harmonious, consolidated and prosperous condition.

"I refer to this topic because New York is deeply interested. The present political divisions have sorely afflicted her people. Her material interests are paralyzed. Her commercial greatness endangered. She is the child of the American Union. She has grown up under its maternal care, and been fostered by its paternal bounty, and we fear if the Union dies the present supremacy of New York will perish with it.

"To you, therefore, chosen under the forms of the con-

stitution, as the head of the confederacy, we look for a restoration of the fraternal relations between the states, which is only to be accomplished by peaceful and conciliatory means—aided by Almighty God.”

Mr. Lincoln responded:

“Mr. Mayor: It is with feelings, indeed, of gratitude that I make my acknowledgments for the reception which has been extended to me by this great commercial city of New York. I can but remember that such a reception is tendered by a people who do not, of a majority, agree with me in political sentiments. It is more grateful on this account, because it is evidence that in support of the great principles that underlie our government the people are nearly, or quite unanimous.

“In regard to the difficulties which encompass us at this time, and of which your honor has thought fit to speak so becomingly, and so justly, I suppose, I can only say that I agree with the sentiments expressed by the Mayor. In my devotion to the Union, I hope I am not behind any man within the Union; but in the wisdom necessary to so conduct affairs, I fear I may be deficient, and that too great confidence has been reposed in me. I am sure, however, that I at least bring a heart devoted to the work. There is nothing which could bring me to consent willingly to the destruction of that Union, under which not alone the great commercial city of New York, but the whole country has acquired greatness. As I understand it the ship is made for the carriage and preservation of the cargo, and so long as the ship can be saved with the cargo it should never be abandoned. We should never cease in our efforts to save it, so long as it can be done without throwing overboard the passengers and cargo. So long as the prosperity and liberty of this people can be preserved in the Union, it will be my purpose, and shall be my effort, at all times, to preserve the Union.”

He closed by thanking the Mayor for his reception.

Following the words of welcome, the members of the city councils and state government were introduced. After which the people were admitted and an immense rush and scramble

was made to get into the Governor's room, and the jam was tremendous. Many thousands attempted to gain admittance, and rent clothes and some bruises were the consequence. Many were unable to shake Lincoln's hand. He returned to the Astor House at one o'clock.

Sidelights

A journalist's report gives us these interesting happenings about the Lincolns:

En route from Albany to New York, Mr. Lincoln was so fatigued that he took little interest in political conversations.

"It was plain to see that the Lincolns were common-sense homelike folks unused to the glitter and flutter of society. He towered above all with his face and forehead furrowed by a thousand wrinkles, his hair unkempt, his new whiskers looking as if not yet naturalized, and his clothing illy arranged.

"Putting prejudice aside, no one can see Mr. Lincoln without recognizing in him a man of immense power and force of character and natural talents. He seems to be sincere, so conscientious, so earnest, so simple hearted that one cannot help liking him.

"All are asking, what will he do? Will he favor Thurlow Weed, or Horace Greeley? Either Weed or Greeley would give a small fortune to know. Mr. Lincoln is tremendously rough, honest and earnest. He talks excellently, and with ease upon any topic and tells a story with consummate tact. However he seldom tells stories in his public addresses.

"Bob Lincoln, 'the Prince of Rails' as he was called with sarcastic raillery thought not much of anything but 'segars' but wouldn't be a prince on a bet, represented his father in the forward car and indulged in all sorts of hilarious merriment."

At the Hudson stop, Mrs. Lincoln was recognized and warmly applauded. In response, she opened the window and returned the salutation. "Where are the children?" came a shout from the crowd. Mrs. Lincoln immediately called Bob to the window, who was greeted by a hearty cheer. "Have you

any more on board?" "Yes, here's another," replied Mrs. Lincoln as she attempted to bring Tad, a tough, rugged little fellow of tender age to the window. But he proved to be somewhat refractory, and the more the mother attempted to pull him within sight of the crowd, the more stubborn he became. He finally threw himself on the floor, and let out a convulsive laugh, and refused to become a part of the Lincoln exhibit, much to the disappointment of a doting mother.

The reporters who met the train in the metropolis were amused with a little domestic scene between Mrs. Lincoln and the President-elect.

Mrs. Lincoln took a comb and brush from her reticule, smoothed Mr. Lincoln's hair, arranged his cravat, brushed some of the dust from his coat, then looked him over with admiration. "Am I all right now, Mother?" asked the President-elect. Mrs. Lincoln's only reply was a bounding kiss. The scene provoked laughter and amusement among the press.

While Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln were in Albany, they received a telegram inviting them to attend the opera at the Academy of Music when in New York. The invitation was accepted. However Mr. Lincoln shocked New York society by appearing in black gloves. "Just as we expected," said a matronly patron. "What more could one expect from a Red Republican?"

A Red Republican was an epithet used by New York capitalists who were afraid that Lincoln would take their dollars from them. A Black Republican was an epithet used by rural aristocrats who were afraid that Lincoln would take away their servants.

While the President-elect was enjoying himself at the opera, Mrs. Lincoln held a levee in the ladies' parlor of the Astor House, where she received her own and her husband's friends, besides several hundred ladies and gentlemen who previously were strangers to both, but who took this opportunity to pay their respects to the lady who was to do the honors at the White House for the next four years. The reception started about 8:30 o'clock, and continued till ten, during which time the

parlor was continually thronged with ladies and gentlemen, some of whom were introduced to Mrs. Lincoln, while others merely passed in and out, being satisfied with a glance at the distinguished lady. Mrs. Lincoln occupied a position at the south end of the parlor, with Mrs. James Watson Webb on her right, and Mrs. Edwards, her sister, on the left.

"She was plainly dressed in a light colored silk. The ladies were presented by Mrs. Webb, and received by Mrs. Lincoln with an ease and grace, and at the same time with a cordiality, which augur well for the social qualities of the future mistress of the national mansion, promising to Miss Harriet Lane a worthy successor. Among the most prominent of those presented were Mrs. Hamlin, wife of the Vice President-elect, Mrs. August Belmont, Mrs. Burnham, Mrs. F. P. James and others. Among the gentlemen who called during the evening were Vice President Hamlin, Col. James Watson Webb, Hon. Horace Greeley, Hon. Truman Smith, Hon. Robert Schnook, Wm. M. Evarts, Esq., Erastus Benedick, Esq., Hon. H. J. Raymond, Simon Draper and others, too numerous to mention."⁴⁵



TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

After two nights in the great metropolis of the East, nights packed full of speeches, opera parties, social and political appointments, Mr. Lincoln and his party left Thursday morning, February 21, at nine o'clock, for Trenton, the capital of New Jersey. Mr. Lincoln appeared at Jersey City and Newark for whistle stop speeches. The entourage was greeted at Trenton by Mayor Mills, who escorted the dignitaries to the Senate Chamber where Hon. Ed. Perry, president of the senate, welcomed the President-elect. "Sir, in the name and on behalf of the Legislature of New Jersey, I welcome you to the capital of our state. Elected to the high and responsible office of President of the

United States, you are soon to take upon yourself the solemn duties to which you have been called. You go to preside over the destinies of this vast country at a time of great distraction and eminent peril, when the hearts of all true patriots are filled with anxiety and solicitude, when the true sons of liberty stand appalled at the impending crisis.

"That you may receive from on High wisdom to direct, strengthen and sustain you in the discharge of the laborious duties of your high office, and that you may so succeed as to merit the universal plaudit of 'well done, good and faithful servant', is I am sure today the prayer of millions of freemen. Go, honored sir, to your great task, and may God go with you."

In reply Mr. Lincoln said, "Mr. President and Senators of the State of New Jersey: I am very grateful to the President for this welcome to your state. I cannot but remark about the exalted character of the place. New Jersey holds a noble position in history. In the Revolutionary struggle few states had more fields of battle than she. I remember reading when a very small boy *Weem's Life of Washington*, an old-fashioned book such as young men now seldom see. It detailed the crossing of the Delaware, the triumph at Trenton, and other noble events in the history of this state.

"These great men who conquered the Hessians in this city must have been animated by a great idea. They fought for something more than national independence. When we remember them are we not prompted to promote the liberties of the whole people by preserving our constitution in this integrity? (Applause) I appear before you gentlemen as the executive officer of that constitution.

"The welcome you have given me is a patriotic one: for a majority of you did not agree with those who thought me the best man for the presidency.* I take your reception then as an evidence that you wish to see the laws carried out and the government preserved. (Applause) As such I am proud to

*Mr. Lincoln received a minority vote in the New Jersey general election.

accept the hospitalities of your state. What capacity I have, shall be devoted, so long as I have life, to the Union, the constitution and the cause of liberty." (Applause)

At the close of the speech Mr. Lincoln was escorted to the Chamber of Assembly where he again was welcomed by Hon. F. H. Tees, Speaker of the Assembly. Again Mr. Lincoln replied in his usual appropriate and happy fashion. At the conclusion of the ceremonies, Mr. Lincoln and notables retired to the hotel where dinner was waiting. The shouts of the crowd in front of the hotel were so loud and continuous that Mr. Lincoln was impelled to appear upon the balcony and greet the multitude by saying a few words.⁴⁶



PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

At 2:30 o'clock the same afternoon the Special departed from Trenton, arriving at the Kensington Station in Philadelphia, at four o'clock. Mr. Lincoln was met at the train by the sub-committee of Councils, 200 in number. There was a salute of 34 guns after which the entourage was escorted to the Continental Hotel to be welcomed by the citizens of the city at one of the most elaborate receptions of the entire trip.

The reception had not progressed far before Mr. Lincoln felt a tap on his shoulder. It was his private secretary, John Nicolay, trying to gain his attention. In subdued tones he addressed the President-elect. "Come at once to Mr. Judd's room for conference." Here among others were to be found the Pinkerton detectives. "A plot has been uncovered to assassinate you when the train passes through Baltimore. You **MUST** change your schedule by going to Washington at once."

Lincoln was silent for a moment then said, "Tomorrow morning I have promised, to raise the flag over Independence Hall; after that to visit the legislature at Harrisburg. At what-

ever cost, these two promises must be kept. Beyond that I shall be ready to consider any plan you may adopt."

Independence Hall

Lincoln kept his promise, and at seven o'clock on the morning of the next day, February 22, 1861, Washington's birthday, he was driven to Independence Hall in a barouche drawn by four white steeds amidst the cheers and shouts of untold numbers that lined the streets of the City of Brotherly Love. His manly and honest face betrayed his emotions as he stood with bowed head in that consecrated shrine, dear to every American heart. He was welcomed by Theodore L. Cuyler Esq., President of the Select Council, who said, in part, "I have been requested by the Councils of Philadelphia, as their presiding officer to welcome you to these venerable walls, to greet you in their name, in the birthplace of our national independence, on the anniversary of the birth of the chief, and the most illustrious of its founders and defenders—to do so in this hour of national peril and distress when that great work which the wisdom and the patriotism of our fathers achieved and which is connected with this spot by imperishable memories, seems to be threatened with instant ruin.

"Under circumstances like these you have been called to the discharge of a trust which none more responsible could devolve upon any man. To you it belongs by wisdom, prudence and moderation and just concession, to repair the shattered fabric of our national Union.

"Within these sacred walls the charter of our national independence was signed, and near this spot was framed the Constitution of the United States. This precious legacy of our fathers has been made more precious by the benefits it has conferred on us, and the honor we have attained under its protection.

"May the spirit of those good men, who wrought out our deliverance, by their wisdom, courage, patriotism, and whose faces look down upon you from these walls, and whose very

spirits seem to linger about this spot, abide upon you. In the name of the city of Philadelphia you are welcome here."

The response of Mr. Lincoln was delivered in a low tone, hardly audible. "Mr. Cuyler: I am filled with deep emotion at finding myself standing here in the place where were collected together the wisdom, the patriotism, the devotion to principle, from which have sprung the institutions under which we live. You have kindly suggested to me that in my hands is the task of restoring peace to our distracted country. *I can say in return, sir, that all the political sentiments I entertain have been drawn, so far as I have been able to draw them, from the sentiments which originated, and were given to the world from this hall in which we stand.*

"I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence. (Great cheering) I have often pondered over the dangers which were incurred by the men who assembled here and adopted that Declaration of Independence—I have pondered over the toils that were endured by the officers and soldiers of the army, who achieved that independence. (Applause) I have often inquired of myself, what great principle or idea it was that kept this confederacy together. It was not the mere matter of the separation of the colonies from the mother land: but something in that declaration giving liberty, not alone to the people of this country, but hope to the world for all future time. (Great applause) It was that which gave promise that in due time the weight should be lifted from the shoulders of all men, and that all should have an equal chance. (Cheers) This is the sentiment embodied in that Declaration of Independence.

"Now, my friends, can this country be saved upon that basis? If it can, I will consider myself one of the happiest men in the world if I can help save it. If it can't be saved upon that principle, it will be truly awful. But, if this country cannot be saved without giving up the principle—I was about to say I would rather be assassinated on this spot than to surrender it. (Applause)

"Now, in my view of the present aspect of affairs, there is no need of bloodshed and war. There is no necessity for it. I am not in favor of such a course, and I may say in advance, there will be no bloodshed unless it be forced upon the government. The government will not use force unless force is used against it. (Prolonged applause and cries of "That's the proper sentiment.")

"My friends, this is a wholly unprepared speech. I did not expect to be called upon to say a word when I came here. I supposed I was merely to do something towards raising a flag. I may, therefore, have said something indiscreet (cries of no, no!) *but I have said nothing but what I am willing to live by, and, in the pleasure of Almighty God, die by.*"

Mr. Lincoln concluded amid great applause. He was then conducted from the hall to the platform. As his tall form rose, "Saul-like above the mass," the scarcely intermittent cheers burst forth with intensified fervor. Stephen Benton, Esq., then addressed Mr. Lincoln and the people thus: "Mr. Lincoln, it affords me pleasure, as chairman of the committee on city property, having in charge the ceremonies of the morning, to invite you, personally, to raise this new American flag, with thirty-four stars on its azure field, the first elevated by the city government.

"Our Councils thought the birthday of Washington and the advent of a successor in his illustrious line, a fitting season for the demonstration. I need not speak of the edifice above which this banner will soon float, nor its hallowed recollection—these have already been ably and eloquently dwelt upon within the hall, by the President of Select Council. I will only add, about eighty years ago, upon a morning like this, citizens arose the subjects of a king, and ere the sun had crossed the meridian, from this spot they were proclaimed free men.

"A common principle and a common foe united them in bearing out a successful issue. After a full flow of prosperity, triumphantly exhibiting the practicability of republican institutions, we suddenly find ourselves fallen upon this later and

darker period, when sectional differences reach the sight of our departed heroes and early sages, to irritate them in their graves, or call down their offending frowns from heaven.

"But, sir, amidst all this we place upon our flag a new star, and trust to the wisdom, the firmness and the moderation of the incoming administration to make it a fixed star in the conclave of freedom.* Your countrymen are about to hand this standard to you, with the hope that, in your keeping, it will not know sully or diminution."

In response to Mr. Benton, Mr. Lincoln said, "Fellow Citizens, I am invited and called before you to participate in raising above Independence Hall the flag of our country, with an additional star upon it. (Cheers) I propose now, in advance of performing this very pleasant and complimentary duty, to say a few words. I propose to say that when that flag was originally raised, it had but thirteen stars. I wish to call your attention to the fact that, under the blessing of God, each additional star added to that flag has given additional prosperity and happiness to this country until it has advanced to its present condition, and its welfare in the future, as well as in the past, is in your hands. (Cheers) Cultivating the spirit that animated our fathers, who gave renown and celebrity to this Hall, cherishing that fraternal feeling which has so long characterized us as a nation, excluding passion, ill temper and precipitate action on all occasions, I think we may promise ourselves that not only the new star placed upon that flag shall be permitted to remain there to our permanent prosperity for years to come, but additional ones shall from time to time be placed there, until we shall number as was anticipated by the great historian, 500,000,000 of happy and prosperous people. (Great applause) With these few remarks, I proceed to the very agreeable duty assigned me."

It is impossible to describe the mad enthusiasm of the people at this moment, as the President-elect gave utterance to these remarks.

* The fixed star alluded to, represented the State of Kansas.

At this time the Scott Legion were drawn up around the platform, with arms presented. The police stood quiet and steady. At the request of the committee, all except two or three persons left the platform, and Mr. Lincoln, with overcoat off, grasped the halyards to draw up the flag. The multitudinous acclamations of the citizens increased with almost fearful excitement as Mr. Lincoln with a firm hand, drew the halyards, and the flag, still furled, rose to view. As it rose and rose, however, it unfolded, and by the time it had reached the peak, the glorious ensign of the Republic floated out magnificently in the pure air, "without a single star erased or a stripe polluted." Yes! and every human being in that multitude breathed forth that prayer of the great expounder of the constitution, delivered at a time when a crisis shook the nation with throes almost equal to those under which the land quivers and reels today.

The band in attendance played the *Star Spangled Banner*, and the roar of cannons, fired in the square, mingled with the music and with the shouts of the excited throng.

Mr. Lincoln was then escorted to his hotel, and in a short time the crowd had melted away, many going back to their untasted breakfasts, and the rest moving off as business or pleasure prompted.

As the time approached for the departure of the President-elect, an immense crowd gathered in the neighborhood of the Continental Hotel. The distinguished guest, with his suite, left the hotel at 8:30 o'clock, and proceeded by way of Walnut and Twenty-third streets, to West Philadelphia, where a special train of three cars was in waiting. Lincoln rode in an open barouche, which was drawn by four noble grays. He was accompanied by Col. Sumner, Hon. N. B. Judd of Illinois, and Mr. Wm. P. Hacker, of Philadelphia.⁴⁷

In West Philadelphia a salute was fired, and there was an immense crowd and great cheering. As the train left, Mr. Lincoln stood upon the rear platform, and bowed his acknowledgments. The train started at 9:30 o'clock. Mr. Hacker was the only member of the Philadelphia committee who accompanied the President-elect to Harrisburg.

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The special train bearing Abraham Lincoln to the Pennsylvania capital arrived at the corner of Vine and Second streets at 1:30 o'clock, from which place he was escorted to the Jones House, where he was welcomed by Governor Curtin. "We have frequently heard of you," said the Governor, "since you left your home in a distant place, and every word that has fallen from your lips has fallen upon the ears of an excited, patriotic but loyal people. (Applause)

"Sir, as President-elect of the United States, you are called to the discharge of official duties at a period of time when the public mind is distracted and divided, when animosities and distractions divide the people of this hitherto happy and prosperous country. You undertake, sir, no easy task. You must restore fraternal feeling. You must heal up discord. You must produce amity in place of hostility and restore prosperity, peace and concord to this unhappy country; and future generations will rise up and call you blessed.

"Sir, this day, by act of our legislature, we unfurled from the dome of the capitol the flag of our country, carried there in the arms of men who defended the country when defense was needed. I assure you, sir, there is no star or stripe erased, and on the azure field there blazon forth 34 stars, the number of the bright constellation of states over which you are called by a free people, in a fair election to preside.

"We trust, sir, that in the discharge of your high office, you may reconcile the unhappy differences now existing, as they have heretofore been reconciled.

"Sir, when conciliation has failed, read our history, and study our tradition. Here are the people who will defend you, the constitution, the laws and the integrity of this Union.

"Our great law-giver and founder established this government of a free people in deeds of peace. We are a peaceful and laborious people—we believe that civilization, progress and Christianity are advanced by the protection of free and paid labor. Sir, I welcome you to the midst of this generous people, and may the God who has so long watched over this country, give you wisdom to discharge the high duties that devolve upon you, to the advancement of the greatness and glory of the government, and the happiness and prosperity of the people."

In reply to Governor Curtin Mr. Lincoln said, "Governor Curtin and citizens of the State of Pennsylvania: Perhaps the best thing that I could do would be simply to endorse the patriotic and eloquent speech which your Governor has just made in your hearing. I am quite sure that I am unable to address to you anything so appropriate as that which he has uttered.

"Reference has been made by him to the distraction of the public mind at this time and to the great task that lies before me in entering upon the administration of the general government. With all the eloquence and ability that your Governor brings to this theme, I am quite sure he does not, in his situation, he cannot appreciate as I do the weight of that great responsibility. I feel that, under God, in the strength of the arm and wisdom of the heads of these masses after all, must be my support. As I have often had occasion to say, I repeat to you, I am quite sure I do not deceive myself when I tell you I bring to the work an honest heart; *I dare not tell you that I bring a head sufficient for it.* If my own strength should fail, I shall at least fall back upon these masses, whom, I think, under any circumstances will not fail.

"Allusion has been made to the peaceful principles upon which this great commonwealth was originally settled. Allow me to add my meed of praise to those peaceful principles. I hope no one of the Friends who originally settled here, or who lived here since that time, or who live here, now, has been or

is a more devoted lover of peace, harmony and concord than my humble self.

"While I have been proud to see today the finest military array, I think, that I have ever seen, allow me to say in regard to those men that they give hope of what may be done when war is inevitable. But, at the same time, allow me to express the hope that in the shedding of blood their service may never be needed, especially in the shedding of fraternal blood.

"It shall be my endeavor to preserve the peace of this country so far as it can possibly be done, consistently with the maintenance of the institutions of the country. With my consent, or without my great displeasure, this country shall never witness the shedding of one drop of blood in fraternal strife.

"And now, my fellow-citizens, will you allow me to bid you farewell?"

At 2:30 o'clock the Senators, members of the House and the Military, escorted Mr. Lincoln to the hall of the House, where, after order was restored, Mr. Palmer greeted him on behalf of the Senate. "Honored Sir: In behalf of the Senate of Pennsylvania, I welcome you to the capital of our state. We deem it a peculiar privilege and a happy omen, that while on your way to assume the duties of the high office to which you have been called, at this momentous period in our national history, we are honored by your presence at our seat of government on the anniversary of the birthday of the Father of his Country.

"The people of Pennsylvania, upon whom rests so large a share of the responsibility of your nomination and election to the presidency, appreciate the magnitude of the task before you, and are fully prepared to sustain your administration of the government, according to the constitution and the laws.

"Whatever differences of opinion existed previous to the election as to the political questions involved in the canvass, they are a law-abiding, constitution and Union-loving people, and there is no difference among them as to your right to claim, and their duty to render such support.

“Accordingly, here today, are assembled men of all parties and of every shade of political opinion, to welcome and to honor you as the constitutionally chosen President of the United States.

At the conclusion Mr. Lincoln arose and said, “Mr. Speaker of the Senate and also Mr. Speaker of the House of Representatives and gentlemen of the General Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania: I appear before you only for a very few brief remarks in response to what has been said to me. I thank you most sincerely for this reception, and the generous words in which support has been promised me upon this occasion. I thank your great commonwealth for the overwhelming support it recently gave, not to me personally, but the cause, which I think a just one, in the late election.

“Allusion has been made to the fact—the interesting fact, perhaps we should say—that I for the first time appear at the capital of the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, upon the birthday of the Father of his Country. In connection with that beloved anniversary, connected with the history of this country, I have already gone through one exceedingly interesting scene this morning in the ceremonies at Philadelphia. Under the kind conduct of gentlemen there, I was for the first time allowed the privilege of standing in old Independence Hall.

“Besides this, our friends there had provided a magnificent flag of the country. They had arranged it so that I was given the honor of raising it to the head of its staff; and when it went up, I was pleased that it went to its place by the strength of my own feeble arm. When, according to the arrangement, the cord was pulled and it flaunted gloriously to the wind without an accident, in the light glowing sunshine of the morning, I could not help hoping that there was in the entire success of that beautiful ceremony, at least something of an omen of what is to come. Nor could I help feeling then, as I often have felt, that in the whole of that proceeding, I was a very humble instrument. I had not provided the flag; I had not made the arrangements for elevating it to its place; I had applied but a very

small portion of even my feeble strength in raising it. In the whole transaction, I was in the hands of the people who had arranged it, and if I can have the same generous cooperation of the people of this nation, I think the flag of our country may yet be kept flaunting gloriously . . .”

SIDELIGHTS

Mr. Lincoln, upon the completion of his address before the legislature, retired to the Jones House, preparatory to carrying out the orders of his private secretary, John Nicolay. Nicolay had been in conference with Fred Seward, son of William H. Seward, who had come on from Washington to inform Mr. Lincoln of a possible plot to take his life at a scheduled stop in Baltimore.

Since the situation seemed too serious to be overlooked, Mr. Lincoln was advised that the presidential party be broken up, and that in disguise he should travel to Washington at a different hour from that which had been originally scheduled.

While Mr. Lincoln expressed displeasure at entering the national Capitol, like a thief, nevertheless he accepted the inevitable and cooperated in carrying out the plan as best he knew how.

While in New York, Mr. Lincoln had been presented with a box containing two hats—a beaver and a soft hat. In his room at the Jones House he put on an old overcoat that he had brought with him. Then he took the soft hat out of the box and put it in his overcoat pocket. He had never, according to his recollection, worn a soft hat. Upon leaving the room he donned the soft hat. It was a complete disguise.

Then Mr. Lincoln together with his friend N. B. Judd, and bodyguard Ward Lamon, boarded a special train which took him back to Philadelphia. Upon arriving in Philadelphia, Lincoln, Judd and Lamon, proceeded in a sleeping car attached to the regular midnight train, reaching Washington at an early morning hour of the 23rd of February. From the station the

party was driven to the Willard Hotel where a few hours later Mr. Lincoln was reunited with his family.⁴⁸



WASHINGTON, D. C.

On the 27th of February, four days after the arrival of President-elect Lincoln at the Capitol, a reception was arranged in his honor at the Willard Hotel. Following the address of welcome by the Hon. James G. Berrett, Mayor of Washington, Mr. Lincoln in response said:

"Mr. Mayor: I thank you, and through you the municipal authorities of this city who accompany you, for this welcome. And as it is the first time in my life since the present phase of politics has presented itself in this country, that I have said anything publicly within a region of country where the institution of slavery exists, I will take this occasion to say that I think very much of the ill feeling which has existed, and still exists, between the people in the sections from whence I came and the people here, is dependent upon a misunderstanding of one another. I therefore avail myself of this opportunity to assure you, Mr. Mayor, and all the gentlemen present, that I have not now, and never have had, any other than as kindly feelings towards you as towards the people of my own section. I have not now, nor never have had, any disposition to treat you in any respect otherwise than as my own neighbors. I have not now any purpose to withhold from you any of the benefits of the constitution, under any circumstances, that I would not feel myself constrained to withhold from my neighbors; and I hope, in a word, that when we shall become better acquainted, and I say it with great confidence, we shall like each other the more. I thank you for the kindness of this reception."⁴⁹

The Inauguration

It was early afternoon of March 4, 1861, that the outgoing President James Buchanan drove up to the Willard Hotel accompanied by the Senate committee, Messrs. Foot, Pearce and Baker, entered, and returned a few minutes later with President-elect Abraham Lincoln. The party mounted an open carriage and proceeded down Pennsylvania Avenue toward the Capitol. The pace was moderate, with military in front and rear; thousands of private citizens in carriages, on horseback and on foot crowded the broad avenue. One of the exotic floats in the procession was a large conveyance, provided by the Republican Association of the city, and draped and furnished to allegorize the constitution and the Union, the states and territories being represented by a corresponding number of little girls dressed in white—the whole drawn by six horses covered with housing on each of which was printed in large letters, "UNION."

Riflemen occupied vantage points at the tops of buildings. The entire Capitol had the appearance of an armed camp. The crowd was not demonstrative; in fact it was unusually quiet for such an august occasion. It was in deep contrast to the thousands who cheered the President-elect again and again en route from Springfield.

The soil on which he was now treading was different—it was enemy soil, Southern soil. The faces of many of the spectators were grave. Their attention seemed to be absorbed in the questions: What would he say? What would he do? The eyes of England, France, Spain and Mexico were also riveted on this new champion of democracy. What would his attitude be toward them?

The Capitol building was reached by passing up the road on the north side of the Capitol grounds, and the party entered the building by the northern door through an extempore planked way.

During the hour and a half previous to the arrival of President Buchanan and President-elect Lincoln at the Senate

Chamber, that beautiful hall presented a gayer and more brilliant spectacle than ever before. The desks of the Senators had been removed and "concentric lines of luxurious and ornamented chairs set for the dignitaries of our own and other lands with whom this country is in bonds of amity and friendship. The inner half-circle on the right was occupied by the Judges of the Supreme Court, and by Senators, mostly Democrats. The corresponding half-circle on the extreme left was occupied by members of the Cabinets of Buchanan and Lincoln; mingled together, and farther on by the Republican Senators. The concentric circle farther back was filled by Senators. The next half-circle on the right by members of the Diplomatic Corps—all in full court dress of their respective countries.

"We learned that on no previous occasion have the ranks of the Diplomatic Corps been so full as it was yesterday." In the half-circle immediately in the rear of that occupied by the Ministers were the Secretaries and Attaches. The half-circles on the left corresponding to those occupied by the Corps Diplomatique, furnished places for Senators and Governors of states and territories. Outside of all, on both sides, stood (for there was no further room for seats) the members of the House of Representatives and chief officers of the executive bureaus. The galleries all around the Senate, the reporters' gallery excepted, were occupied by ladies, no gentlemen having been admitted, other than some half dozen in the diplomatic gallery.

At a quarter past one o'clock the President of the United States and the President-elect entered the Senate Chamber, preceded by Senator Foot and the Marshal of the District of Columbia, and followed by Senators Baker and Pearce. They took seats immediately in front of the clerk's desk, facing outward, President Buchanan having the President-elect on his right, and the Senators and Marshal equally distributed right and left.

In a few minutes Vice-President Hamlin, who had been previously installed, ordered the reading of the order of procession to the platform on the east of the Capitol, and the line was formed, the Marshal of the District of Columbia leading.

Then followed Chief Justice Taney and the Judges of the Supreme Court, the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate, the Committee of Arrangements of the Senate, the President of the United States and Senate, the members of the Diplomatic Corps, Governors of states and territories, and members of the House of Representatives.

In this order the procession marched to the platform, erected in the usual position over the main steps on the east front of the Capitol, where a temporary covering had been placed to protect the President-elect, from possible rain during the reading of his Inaugural Address. Sharpshooters crouched behind the windows above the crowd. Mrs. Lincoln and children occupied vantage seats. Chief Justice Taney, resembling an elderly monk, in his black robe, waited impatiently to administer the oath.

With the preliminaries over, Senator Edward D. Baker of Oregon, an old friend and former fellow townsman, arose and introduced the President. There were a few hand-claps as this tall figure with his white shirt bulging from the front, came forward and stood awkwardly at the edge of the platform. His gold headed cane, a recent gift to him, seemed to be in the way so he leisurely tossed it into the corner, and removing his tall hat handed it to his friend, but one-time political enemy, Stephen A. Douglas. Then taking out of his pocket his steel-rimmed spectacles, he adjusted them to his long nose, unfolded his carefully guarded manuscript, and began to read.

"Fellow citizens of the United States: In compliance with a custom as old as the government itself, I appear before you to address you briefly, and to take in your presence the oath prescribed by the constitution of the United States to be taken by the President, before he enters on the execution of his office.

"I do not consider it necessary at present for me to discuss those matters of administration about which there is no special anxiety or excitement. Apprehension seems to exist, among the people of the Southern states, that by accession of a Republican

administration their property and their peace and personal security are to be endangered. There never has been any reasonable cause for such apprehension. Indeed, the most ample evidence to the contrary has all the while existed and been open to their inspection. It is found in nearly all the published speeches of him who now addresses you. I do but quote from one of those speeches when I declare that 'I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the states where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.' Those who nominated and elected me did so with full knowledge that I had made this and many similar declarations, and had never recanted them. And more than this, they placed in the platform for my acceptance, and as a law to themselves and to me, the clear and emphatic resolution which I now read:

"Resolved, that the maintenance inviolate of the rights of the states, and especially the right of each state to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its judgment exclusively, is essential to the balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depend, and we denounce the lawless invasion by armed force of the soil of any state or territory, no matter under what pretext, as among the gravest of crimes.'

"I now reiterate these sentiments; and, in doing so, I only press upon the public attention the most conclusive evidence of which the case is susceptible, that the property, peace, and security of no section are to be in any wise endangered by the now incoming administration."

Then in simple language he defined his position as the constitutionally elected President of a democracy. He defined the violation of democratic principles which he would oppose even with war.

In closing, he said, "My countrymen, one and all: Think calmly and well upon this whole subject. Nothing valuable can be lost by taking time. If there be an object to hurry any of you in hot haste to a step which you would never take deliber-

ately, that object will be frustrated by taking time; but no good object can be frustrated by it. Such of you as are now dissatisfied still have the old constitution unimpaired, and on the sensitive point, the laws of your own framing under it; while the new administration will have no immediate power, if it would, to change either. If it were admitted that you who are dissatisfied hold the right side in this dispute there is still no single good reason for precipitate action. Intelligence, patriotism, Christianity, and a firm reliance on Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land are still competent to adjust in the best way all our present difficulty.

"In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in mine, are the momentous issues of civil war. The government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the government, while I shall have the most solemn one to 'preserve, protect and defend' it.

"I am loath to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic cords of memory stretching from every battle-field and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."⁵⁰

At the close of the address the venerable Chief Justice Taney administered the oath of office. The drama that began in the cradle of the little cabin in Kentucky, had reached its climax at the Capitol in Washington.

With the same resolute heart with which he assumed full responsibility for his young life at twenty-one, Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the United States, took over the executive duties of his country.

Up to the time of the inauguration there were many existing uncertainties, but with the delivery of the inaugural address, at least one had been silenced. "We at last had a government."

Part III

LINCOLN SAVES AMERICA

THE WHITE PAPER

The morning of April 12, thirty-eight days after President Lincoln's inaugural plea for peace and unity, the South gave her answer with a shower of shrapnel poured on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, reducing it to shambles.

"Fort Sumter fell but the nation arose." Three days after the fall of Fort Sumter, the President sent out an urgent call for 75,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion. That number sprang to arms almost overnight. And the first of July 235,000 more were added and allocated to the defense of the Capitol and other strategic points.

Although the President still had hopes of averting a major conflict, he felt that the soldiers should know why they were being called to arms, and if necessary what they were fighting for. So on July 4, 1861, he addressed a message to Congress in clarification of his stand.

"This is essentially a people's contest. On the side of the Union it is a struggle for maintaining in the world that form and substance of government whose leading object is to elevate the condition of men—to lift artificial weights from all shoulders; to clear the paths of laudable pursuits for all; to afford all an unfettered start, and a fair chance in the race of life. Yielding to partial and temporary departures, from necessity, this is the leading object of the government for whose existence we contend.

"Our popular government has often been called an experiment. *Two points in it our people have already settled—the successful establishing and the successful administering of it. One still remains—its successful maintenance against formidable internal attempt to overthrow it.*

"It is now for them to demonstrate to the world that those

who can fairly carry an election can also suppress a rebellion; that ballots are the rightful and peaceful successors of bullets; and that when ballots have fairly and constitutionally decided, there can be no successful appeal back to bullets; that there can be no successful appeal except to ballots themselves at succeeding elections. Such will be a great lesson of peace; teaching men that what they cannot take by election, neither can they take by war; *teaching all the folly of being the beginners of a war.*

"As a private citizen the executive could not have consented that the institutions of this country shall perish; much less could he, in betrayal of so vast and so sacred a trust as the free people have confided in to him. He felt that he had no moral right to shrink, nor even to count the chances of his own life in what might follow. In full view of his great responsibility he has, so far, done what he has deemed his duty. You will now, according to your own judgment, perform yours. He sincerely hopes that your views and your actions may so accord with his, as to assure all faithful citizens who have been disturbed in their rights, of a certain and speedy restoration to them, under the constitution and the laws.

"And having thus chosen our course, without guile and with pure purpose, let us renew our trust in God, and go forward without fear and with manly hearts."⁵¹



REALITY OF WAR

It was the opinion of those about the Capitol that hostilities, if continued, would not last long. The end could easily come through a few insignificant thrusts or perhaps a short rebellion at the most. Washington "big-wigs" were anxious to get on with the fight. If it must come, then let's get it over with.

However, with the seceding of Virginia and with Robert E.

Lee lost to the Northern cause, the "higher-ups" were a bit less impetuous. Alexandria and Arlington Heights, just across the Potomac in Virginia from Washington D. C., were a little too close for the safety of the Capitol. So the order went forth to bring these two strategic spots into the Union. With this accomplished, the cry went up, "On to Richmond!"

It was on July 21, 1861, a clear warm sunshiny day, that the Federal forces under General Irvin McDowell, left Washington and moved slowly toward the city of Richmond. McDowell had not gone far before he encountered the Southern forces at Manassas Junction, better known as Bull Run. Here he had the surprise of his life. Instead of a skirmish, or a pushover, as he had expected, he was confronted with much superior forces under the able leaderships of Generals Beauregard and Jackson; and after a day of combat, the Federalists were put to complete rout. They were not only badly beaten, they were panic stricken, and fled in disorder.

Back in Washington, President Lincoln had followed his usual custom of attending church in the morning, and to his astonishment, could hear distinctly the cannonading of the battle twenty miles away. At the close of the services the President sought out dispatches from the front, and anxiously scanned the contents. Although the news was not as satisfying as he had hoped, yet he could see no immediate cause for alarm. In the afternoon he took his accustomed ride about the streets and through the parks.

Cocky Congressmen and Senators, confident of victory, earlier in the day had set out by horseback and carriage for the front, to gain vantage places from which to observe the battle. What they had hoped would be a gala day, had, at about sundown, been turned into a nightmare of confusion. On the return trip to Washington, they drove over roads and forded streams cluttered with dead, and dying; they met demoralized, retreating soldiers in a mad rush to get away from the withering fire. In fact, legislators and soldiers seemed to vie with each other to see which could get to the Capitol first.

When the official news of the disaster finally reached the President, it found him in almost a state of collapse, for he too had felt that victory would perch upon the banner of the Union forces.

It was indeed a different Washington to which Congressmen, Senators, and soldiers returned. A sober one. The atmosphere had the tenseness of a city that suddenly had been shaken by an earthquake, and had just completed the somber task of burying its dead. What had appeared to be, a few short hours before, a trivial family scrap between the states, now loomed to be a long-drawn-out, hard fought battle to the finish.

President Lincoln with the return of his composure steeled himself to meet the situation. He sent out an S.O.S. call for additional troops. He shook up the official staff of the army, and cut heads off where necessary. He turned over in his mind again and again what he considered to be the formula for a successful democratic state. "Two points of our popular government have been already settled—the successful establishing and the successful administering of it. But one remains—its successful maintenance against a formidable internal attempt to overthrow it." Yes, the Union must be saved even at the cost of the shedding of blood. The terrible spectacle that he had hoped and prayed might not come, was upon him: the brutally tragic, living reality of war.

Two theatres of war were mapped out: an Eastern, including the Potomac and Virginia areas with General McClellan in charge, and the Western, embracing Tennessee and the Mississippi valley with General H. W. Halleck, and later General Ulysses S. Grant in command.

The Western forces were fairly successful from the beginning. But the Eastern armies suffered defeat after defeat at the hands of the Southern generals. For two years and more this titanic struggle went on with frightful loss of human life.

In the North there were riots and discontent, and abroad were threatenings and implications. But President Lincoln never once wavered, and undismayed, "held on through blame and

faltered not at praise," with his objective ever before him. A popular government must be maintained against a formidable internal attempt to overthrow it.

Shrewd and circumspect General Robert E. Lee felt that he should take advantage of the enemy's disturbed conditions, move his army North, make a few dramatic thrusts and put an end to the slaughter.

On June 24, 1863, for the second time in his campaign, Lee pointed his victorious Virginia forces northward, crossed the Potomac near Shepherdstown and prepared to invade Pennsylvania. On July 1, he met the army of the Potomac under General George Meade at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. For three days and nights the battle raged; but on the fourth, at about midnight, Robert E. Lee and his depleted forces, battered, beaten, and humiliated, began a hurried retreat back toward the Mason and Dixon line from whence they came. The next day Vicksburg fell to General Grant, and the backbone of the Southern Confederacy was at last broken.

However, the end was not yet in sight, for the armies of the South were still intact. But Lincoln could see in these two victories the first sign of a dream come true; one nation, *one people, free.*



THE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Not long after the smoke of battle had cleared away, Andrew J. Curtin, Governor of Pennsylvania, left his desk in Harrisburg, and came to Gettysburg to view the battlefield. The object of the visit was to arrange for the burial of the dead and to care for the injured.

To augment the work the Governor appointed a board with Judge Wills of Gettysburg as head. Steps were taken immediately for the purchase of a suitable burying ground. The board

affirmed the suggestion of Judge Wills that the cemetery be made national. Arrangements were also completed for a dedicatory service to be held on October 23, 1863.

In searching the field for a possible speaker, whom they felt would grace this important occasion, the board, after much deliberation, settled upon the name of Edward Everett, minister, educator, lecturer, ex-Congressman, ex-Governor of Massachusetts ex-United States Senator and former Ambassador to the Court of St. James. Upon the receipt of the invitation to appear on the consecration program, Mr. Everett replied that he would be unable to appear on the date set, but if it were moved forward a month he felt certain he could be present. The postponement would give him added time for thought and preparation, and also afford an opportunity to visit the battlefield, which should lend color and background to what he would have to say. The request was granted and the date for the service was set for Thursday, November 19.

With the selection of the orator and the date for the occasion out of the way, the next important matter to come before the board was whether or not to invite the President to speak. It was the consensus that under no circumstances should he appear on the program with a lengthy speech. If he did, it was felt that he would not be equal to the occasion. However, in accordance with propriety, he should not be left out. It was finally agreed that he should be asked to make a few appropriate remarks to give the occasion the official stamp. So Judge Wills, at the suggestion of the board, wrote the President. Among other things he said, "It is the desire that after the oration (by Everett) you as chief executive of the nation, formally set apart the grounds to their sacred use by a few appropriate remarks. I hope that you will feel it your duty to lay aside pressing business for a day and come here to perform these last sad rites to our brave soldiers on the 19th inst."

THE CONSECRATION

On the morning of November 18, the presidential party entrained at Washington for Gettysburg, to be present at the consecration exercises. Among those accompanying the President were Secretary of State Seward, Secretary of the Interior Usher, Postmaster General Blair, Minister M. Mercier of France, Minister M. Bertinatti of Italy, personal escorts, General Fry and Ward Lamon, intimate friend, Wayne MacVeagh, personal secretaries, John Nicolay and Major John Hay, Lieutenant Martinez, and Captain and Mrs. H. A. Wise. (Mrs. Wise was the daughter of Edward Everett, the speaker of the day.) There were also many personal friends and secretaries as well as numerous newspaper men.

A short distance out of Baltimore the train passed through a deep ravine which darkened the coaches, and confined the sound, making the train noisier. President Lincoln sat at the head of the table during luncheon, and was the life of the party. After two long years of worries of war, it seemed that the relaxation of such a trip was the tonic that was needed to mend his frayed nerves. He was his old self again, and ere long was telling one of his accustomed "reminds me" stories. "The situation," said the President, "recalls to my mind a friend in Southern Illinois, who one night encountered a terrible thunderstorm while riding over a corduroy road, and became frightened. The lightning made it possible for his horse to get from one log to another, but he too often missed, stumbled and fell carrying the rider down with him. After several such upsets my friend, although unaccustomed to prayer, thought it was about time to call upon his Maker to help him out of his predicament. He finally cried out in desperation, 'Lord, if it would suit you equally as well, it would suit me better, if you would give

me a little more light and less noise.' ” The story ended with a hearty laugh as the train passed out of the darkness, and light was restored and the noise vanished.

Frequent stops were made at cities and villages along the way, and the President usually appeared on the rear platform to greet and say a few words to the cheering throngs that gathered at the stations to bid him welcome.

While the train halted at a town near Gettysburg, he was attracted by a little girl attempting to pass some flowers to him through an open window. It is said the President turned away from a friend with whom he was conversing, and leaning far out of the window, kissed the little one saying, “You are a little rosebud yourself. I hope your life will open in perpetual beauty and goodness.”

The presidential party arrived at the village of Gettysburg mid-afternoon Wednesday, November 18. A citizen’s committee met the distinguished guests at the station and escorted them to the homes of their hosts for the evening. The President accepted an invitation to be the guest of Judge David Wills, president of the board and responsible for the creation of the national cemetery. Other officials and diplomats were guests at the hotel or were entertained in the homes of prominent Gettysburgers.

Early in the evening joyous serenaders gathered to welcome the elite of the party. The President appeared upon the porch of Judge Wills’ home, and in response to a call for a speech said, “My fellow citizens: I appear before you merely to thank you for this compliment. The inference is a very fair one that you would hear me for a little while at least, were I to commence to make a speech. I do not appear before you for the purpose of doing so and for several substantial reasons. The most substantial of these, that I have no speech to make. In my position, it is somewhat important that I should not say any foolish things.”

A voice from the crowd called, “If I can help it!”

Whereupon Mr. Lincoln concluded, “It very often happens

that the only way to help it is to say nothing at all. I must beg of you to excuse me from addressing you further."

The President's arrival in Gettysburg sparked one of the most controversial questions in the life of the Emancipator. When and where was the Gettysburg Address written? Not that the time or place would add to, or take from it, one whit of its interest and popularity; yet the American mind is such that it naturally wants to know the facts about such things.

Was the Address written on the train while the President was en route from Washington to Gettysburg? I do not think so. The road beds of the early railroads were so rough and crudely constructed that they were not at all conducive to legible handwriting. It is also extremely doubtful that the President had either time or privacy in which to write thoughtfully. General Fry, his personal escort, said, "I have no recollection of seeing him writing or reading a manuscript, nor was there any opportunity for him to do so."

Did President Lincoln prepare the address at the home of Judge Wills? No, at least not in full. The President, as the guest of a prominent Gettysburg citizen, could have had but little time to devote to personal affairs. A party also was given in the President's honor at Judge Wills' home. At least two thirds of his evening was devoted to this social function. Wayne MacVeagh, a close personal friend of the President, said that during the latter part of the evening, Mr. Lincoln told him he expected to excuse himself and go to his room and devote a little time to what he was to say on the morrow. John Nicolay stated that after breakfast on the morning of the consecration, he reported to the President's room for duty and found him working on his address, previous to its delivery that morning at ten o'clock.

That Lincoln was meticulous in the preparation of this important address cannot be denied. But there is not sufficient evidence to show that the basic part of the Gettysburg Address was prepared at the Judge Wills' home. It is not uncommon for public speakers, anxious to please, to give special attention to their speeches previous to their delivery.

Was the Address written in Washington? It seems to be the accepted opinion among Lincolnian writers that it was. There is reason to believe that the address appeared on two separate sheets of White House stationery; that some time previous to the trip to Gettysburg one of the sheets, on which was written the closing part of the speech, was either lost or mislaid; sometime between arriving at the Wills' home and departing for the consecration meeting the next morning, the President asked for a piece of paper on which he rewrote the missing part. This was done no doubt to refresh his memory. The entire speech was spoken from memory, although the President had before him the written words at the time of delivery. The words "under God" were not included in the original manuscript, but were inserted, impromptu, at the time of the delivery.

Five drafts of the original speech were made by the President. The first two were given to Major John Hay, his secretary; the third to Edward Everett; the fourth to the Soldiers and Sailors Fair at Baltimore in 1864. The fifth is known as the Bliss copy.

The morning of November 19, 1863, was clear and unusually warm for the time of the year. A hush and quietness was in the atmosphere greatly in contrast to the belching of cannons and the bursting of shells a few short months before. The stores and homes of the little town were appropriately decorated with the nation's emblem, the Stars and Stripes. The last nail had been driven into the planks of the rustic platform where that morning the nation's great would sit. There would be representatives there from eighteen states whose sons had fallen for a great cause. Congressmen, governors, senators, cabinet members, together with the President of the United States would be there. It was a state occasion which had required the most careful preparation.

No less attention had been shown in selecting the orator of the day. The life of every American speaker of note had undergone the strictest scrutiny. What was his reputation? Was he popular with the masses? Had he been loyal to the Union? Could

he meet the exacting conditions in so critical a time? There was one man and only one who could measure up to the severe test: the distinguished statesman and scholar, Edward Everett.

At about eleven o'clock the President mounted his horse in front of David Wills' home at the corner of the village square in Gettysburg and rode to the cemetery past thousands of those who had come to witness the consecration. The President took his place upon the platform followed by other notables of this and other nations. After the invocation had been pronounced, those upon the platform were seated. There was a slight lull in the proceedings, because Mr. Everett was tardy. Then he arrived, and was introduced to the audience of about 10,000 people, most of whom were standing. As he approached the front of the platform he held in his hand a manuscript of his speech to which at times he glanced and then again from which he read. His voice had a clear, distinct, cultural tone; and the words spoken were eloquently expressed. He was every inch an orator. Here is part of what he said:

"Friends, fellow citizens of Gettysburg and Pennsylvania, and you from remoter states: Let me again invoke your benediction, as we part, on these honored graves. You feel, though the occasion is mournful, that it is good to be here. You feel that it was greatly auspicious for the cause of the country, that the men of the East and the men of the West, the men of nineteen sister states, stood side by side on the perilous ridges of the battle. You now feel it a new bond of union, that they should lie side by side, 'til a clarion, louder than that which marshalled them to the combat, shall awake their slumbers. God bless the Union; it is dearer to us for the blood of these brave men shed in its defense. The spots on which they stood and fell; those pleasant heights, the fertile plain beneath them, the thriving village whose streets so lately rang with the strange din of war; the fields beyond the ridge, where the noble Reynolds held the advancing foe at bay, and while he gave up his own life, assured by his forethought and self-sacrifice, the triumph of the two succeeding days; the little streams which wind through the

hills, on whose banks in after times, the wandering plowman will turn up, with the rude weapons of savage warfare, the fearful missiles of modern artillery; the Seminary Ridge, the Peach Orchard, Cemetery, Culp and Wolf Hill, Round Top, Little Round Top, humble names, henceforward dear and famous; no lapse of time, no distance of space shall cause you to be forgotten. 'The whole earth,' said Pericles, as he stood over the remains of his fellow citizens who had fallen in the first year of the Peloponnesian war, 'the whole earth is the sepulchre of illustrious man.' All Time, he might have added, is the millenium of their glory. Surely I would do no injustice to the other noble achievements of the war, which have reflected such honor on both arms of the service, and have entitled the armies and the navy of the United States, their officers and men, to the warmest thanks and the richest rewards which a grateful people can pay. But they, I am sure, will join us in saying, as we bid farewell to the dust of these martyr-heroes that wheresoever throughout the civilized world the accounts of this great warfare are read, and down to the latest recorded period of time, in the glorious annals of our common country, there will be no brighter page than that which relates to the Battles of Gettysburg."

For two hours Edward Everett spoke, and as his clear resonant tones faded away, the crowd burst forth into spontaneous and prolonged applause. They were confident that they had heard an orator that missed no word of appeal or grasp of thought.

After the singing of a hymn, composed for the occasion by Benjamin B. French, Marshall Ward Hill Lamon, Lincoln's friend, arose to introduce the President. He used the simple phrase, "The President of the United States."

Tall, awkward and ungainly, Abraham Lincoln made his way to the foot of the platform and after a moment of pause, began his few appropriate remarks.

"Fellow Countrymen: Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, con-

ceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

"Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives, that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

"But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Lincoln returned to his seat. The applause was scattered and listless. He was stunned. The audience by its prolonged applause had certainly placed its stamp of approval upon Everett's speech, he thought, but toward his the people were cold. Turning to his friend, Marshall Lamon, Lincoln said, "That speech won't scour. It's a flat failure, and the people are disappointed."

Then his friend Wayne MacVeagh took him by the hand and said, "You have made an immortal address."

Replied the President, "But you must not be extravagant about it."

During the return trip to Washington, that evening after the consecration, President Lincoln, although suffering from a

severe headache, felt that he must see his friend Wayne MacVeagh for a few moments, as he was to leave the party at Hanover Junction, Pennsylvania. So he sent for him to come to the drawing room. MacVeagh upon reaching the room, found the President lying down, applying cold water to his swathed head. It was MacVeagh who opened the conversation by pressing further the compliment that he had paid earlier in the day.

"You did not like what I said this afternoon about your address, but I have thought it over carefully, and I can only say, the words you spoke will live in the land's language."

The President was somewhat perturbed. "But you are more extravagant than ever. You are the only person who has such a misconception of what I said. But I did not send for you to talk about my address, but about more important matters."

The next morning found the President back at his desk in the White House, and the consecration was just another memory in the long list of state events in which the chief executive of the nation found it necessary to participate.

The business grinds on. A messenger seeks entrance to the President's office. He is admitted and places in the hands of the President a letter. It is opened and the President observes that it is from Edward Everett. He reads:

"My dear Sir: Permit me to express my great admiration of the thoughts expressed by you with such elegant simplicity and appropriateness at the consecration of the cemetery. I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes."

Lincoln replied immediately: "My dear Mr. Everett: Your kind note of today is received. In our respective parts yesterday, you could not have been excused to make a short address and I a long one. I am pleased to know in your judgment the little I did say was not a failure."⁵²

It is characteristic of human nature that when one does not think about success, he cares little about failure. That

Lincoln thought in terms of failure should be sufficient reason to warrant that he was unusually anxious to succeed.

Again success or failure upon the platform often times is measured in terms of applause or the lack of it. The consensus of Lincolnian writers seems to be that Lincoln had a super-sensitive nature that may have led him to place too high a value on the ovation that Edward Everett received, and to attach too much concern to the comparative silence that greeted his own effort.

The consecration program was of nearly three hours' duration. Edward Everett occupied two hours or more of this time, while Lincoln used but three minutes of it with his "appropriate remarks." The people had been standing throughout the exercises and no doubt had become tired and restless. Under such circumstances it would not be unusual for the people to lack the impulse of a normal demonstration. The President could well have interpreted the near-silence at the close of his address as an ominous indication that he had failed to impress the people with the vital issues of the war.



WRITTEN IN OUR HEARTS

Among the great expressions in the English tongue of all time is the Gettysburg Address. It has become so much a part of the American life that it is difficult to think of a time when it did not exist. More has been written about these two hundred and seventy-two words than about any other thoughts ever delivered, except the Sermon on the Mount. The cheers that greeted the words of Edward Everett are forgotten: But the words that Lincoln uttered, and felt "would not scour" are written in the hearts of every true American.

Great thoughts, like great men, survive the critical test of years. Critics, scholars, public speakers alike, have spoken,

studied, and quoted from the Gettysburg Address without offering a suggestion that a thought or word be changed. It has been accorded, by those who should know, the highest place among great pieces of literature.

What is it that has won for it the acclaim of "great"? There can be but one answer. *Great issues, a great man, a great occasion.* Seldom in history do these three meet at the same time. Viewing the fortunes of war, Abraham Lincoln felt on that bright November day that the issues to which he had devoted his life would soon be favorably settled. He stepped out from his seat on the platform with that idea in possession of his soul. Naturally it would be to him, the executive head of the government, and not to the orator of the day that the people would look for guidance in this dark hour. And so Abraham Lincoln, as President of the United States, accepted the full responsibility for the welfare of his country when he said, "*that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*" With these closing words the immortal Gettysburg Address was born.

Great men are far-seeing men. Could Lincoln have been thinking of that day when all the democracies of the earth would be threatened with extinction and America must be saved to bear the torch of freedom to others whose flame had flickered out? Who knows?



"THE PERFECT TRIBUTE"

President Lincoln was accustomed, whenever possible, to visit the front and talk and mingle with the soldiers. He was anxious to get their opinion of conditions behind the lines. And as the war wore on to the end his mind more and more became absorbed by the suffering on the battlefield and the

seemingly useless waste of human life. And in one of his most disturbed moments he was heard to cry out to a friend, "How willingly I would trade places today with the soldier that sleeps on the ground in the army of the Potomac! I say to you now that if it were not for the occasional vent of story-telling I should die. If it were not for my firm belief in an over-ruling Providence, it would be difficult for me in the midst of such complications of affairs to keep my reason on its seat."

Such were the disconsolate words of a distraught Lincoln during the dark days of the War between the States. Yet notwithstanding this emotional disturbance and the cumulative responsibilities of his high office, Lincoln found time and consolation in penning an appropriate tribute to a sorrowing mother who it was reported had lost her sons in battle.

The letter was addressed to Mrs. Bixby of Boston, Massachusetts, a poor widow whose sixth son, recently wounded in battle was now lying in a hospital. The letter exemplifies the noble character of the writer, and conveys in exquisite English the nation's respect to a mother who had made the supreme sacrifice,* that every American regardless of color might enjoy the fruits of freedom.⁵³

EXECUTIVE MANSION

Washington, November 21, 1864

To Mrs. Bixby
Boston, Mass.

Dear Madam:

"I have been shown on the file of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts, that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle.

I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming.

But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation

* Hangs on the wall of the library, Oxford, England.

that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they have died to save.

I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement and leave only the cherished memory of the loved and lost and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

Yours very sincerely and respectfully,

A. LINCOLN.



GOD WILLS IT

With victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, the turning point of the war was at hand, and the President seemed more confident than ever that the will of God prevailed in human affairs. Tarbell says in her *Life of Lincoln* that he had been animated since his election to the presidency with the simple theory, "If we do right God will be with us, and if God is with us we cannot fail."

"He had struggled to see what was right and no man or men had been able to bear pressure heavy enough to turn him from a step he had concluded was right."

But as the days went on he saw his cause fail again and again. At times it seemed on the verge of destruction. Was he wrong in his own judgment of what was right, or could it be that God had some end in view different from either that of the North or the South? In the latter part of 1862 he summed up his feelings in the following statement.

"The will of God prevails. In great contests each party claims to act in accordance with the will of God. Both may not be, but one must be wrong. God cannot be for and against the same thing at the same time. In the present civil war it is quite possible that God's purpose is something different from the purpose of either party: and yet the human instrumentalities,

working, just as they do, are of the best adaptation to effect His purpose. I am almost ready to say that this is probably true: that God wills this contest, and wills that it shall not end yet. By His mere great power on the minds of the contestants, He could have either saved or destroyed the Union without a human contest. Yet the contest began. And having begun he could give the final victory to either side any day. Yet the contest proceeds.”

And Tarbell states further, “As time went on and his conviction that his cause was right grew stronger, in spite of the reverses he suffered, he began to feel that God’s purpose was to wipe out slavery and that the war was a divine retribution on North as well as South for the toleration of slavery.”⁵⁴

By the Spring of 1865 the President was convinced that the war must go on to the end, and in his second inaugural of March 4 of that year he expressed in beautiful language, and yet in no uncertain terms, his convictions of what he felt his Maker expected of him.

“The Almighty has His own purposes. Woe unto the world because of offenses! For it must needs be that offenses come: but woe unto that man by whom the offense cometh. If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of these offenses, which in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and He gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from these divine attributes which the believers in the living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope—fervently do we pray—that this mighty scourge of war shall soon pass away. Yet if God wills that it continue until all wealth piled by the bondsman two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn from the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, ‘the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.’”

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan; to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."⁵⁵



SEALED WITH HIS BLOOD

Throughout the long arduous years of turmoil and struggle on the journey from Cabin to Capitol, Abraham Lincoln never faltered, but held firmly to his ideal of Union and Peace for all Americans.

Within a little over a month from the day that Mr. Lincoln had taken the oath for the second time to uphold the Constitution of the United States, General Robert E. Lee, commander of the Confederate forces, surrendered his army to the Union commander, General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. Thus the catastrophic struggle of four deadly years of war between the states was ended. *Lincoln had saved America.*

And within a short space of a few days from this climactic event, a tired and weary President had sealed that covenant with his blood, shed by an assassin's bullet.

This covenant, costly and tragic as it was, was the price that was exacted that freedom might come to enslaved millions here at home and that the oppressed of all nations throughout the world might take NEW HOPE.

THE HIDDEN TREASURES

No one writer or small group of writers have succeeded in gathering all the information about a nation's hero that a curious public would like to know. That usually leaves room for some lesser known light, to bring forth something new and startling. Then there are those who by virtue of their environment obtain a more intimate knowledge of a situation or character. Such were the positions of John Nicolay and John Hay. As private secretaries to President Lincoln, they were front seat drivers, and could observe almost his every word and act during the war days.

"Billy" Herndon, junior law partner of Mr. Lincoln's, with an association of sixteen years, should have had an extremely interesting story of Lincoln's pre-war days. But so often what the public gets depends on what the writer stresses. Herndon emphasized the Lincoln heritage and the Ann Rutledge love affair, and reaped a "whirlwind."

Nicolay and Hay, soon after the death of President Lincoln, were interested in bringing to the public the facts of the Lincoln life: and to this day, almost a century after, what Nicolay and Hay wrote, the public has accepted without question.

Following the publication of the Lincoln history by Nicolay and Hay, Robert Lincoln fell heir to the basic material. Robert was severely criticized by historians for keeping the material in close privacy. However, toward the end of his life, and aware of this continued criticism, Robert decided to dispose of the matter. In May 1919, according to David G. Mearns, Director of the Congressional Reference Department, Washington D. C., Robert brought his father's papers, then in his possession, and deposited them for safe keeping in the Library of Congress. And in 1923 he executed a deed of gift to the library. It was

stipulated in the deed that the papers were to be kept under lock and key "until the expiration of twenty-one years from the date of my death."

The all-important Lincolnian question of the day was, Why was this done? Why did not he, himself, turn the papers over to the biographers and historians for public use? These questions, so far as my knowledge extends, have never been satisfactorily answered. There have been rumors that the deed was made to the library to block a certain person from securing the Nicolay and Hay material for a new Lincoln book.

There was a story afloat that a certain prominent politician of the time approached Robert at his eastern mountain retreat and requested the use of the Nicolay and Hay material for a book, but was flatly refused. The reason given by Robert was, that this person had written a magazine article attacking the legitimacy of his grandmother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

Henry Watterson, Southern born Confederate soldier, editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal and United States Senator, one of America's prominent and influential citizens—a personal acquaintance of President Lincoln, made an investigation of the legitimacy of the birth of Nancy Hanks.

In an article published in the Cosmopolitan Magazine 1909 he said, "Dr. Christopher Columbus Graham, of Louisville, Kentucky, who died in 1885, wrote at my request his recollections; and testified to them before a notary in the ninety-eighth year of his age: *I know Nancy Hanks to have been virtuous, respectable and of good parentage; and I knew Jesse Head, Methodist preacher of Springfield, who performed the wedding ceremony. The first child was a daughter, Sarah. Three years after the marriage arrived the boy Abraham. Another son named Tom was born. He lived but a few months. The last recorded words of Nancy Lincoln were words of cheer. The dread milk sickness stalked abroad killing human beings and cattle. Nancy took to her bed, and knowing that she would not live long, put her hand on the head of the little boy nine years old, Abraham, and said, 'I know that you will be a good boy.*

I'm going away from you, Abraham, and shall not return. I know that you will be kind to Sarah and your father. I want you to live as I have taught you and love your Heavenly Father.' ²⁵⁶

A pitiful story; one can scarcely read it with dry eyes, but it lifts the veil forever from the cruel mystery which so long clouded the memory of Nancy Hanks. I here dwell upon it and give the details because it ought to be known to every American who would have the truth of history fulfilled.

There were also conjectures that certain portions of the material referred to those yet alive, which if published might cause untold anguish.

Still further, historians and distinguished authors thought the material might also shed some light on the all absorbing question, as to whether or not there was a general plot among high government officials to assassinate the President.

David C. Mearns says that "myth and misunderstanding have clustered about the documents ever since President Lincoln's secretaries, John Nicolay and John Hay, started collecting them at the White House a few days after the assassination of the President."

A gala day for writers, biographers, historians, and lovers of Lincolnia was July 27, 1947. For it was on that day, one minute past midnight, in the Congressional Library, Washington D. C., that five safes containing a collection of more than 18,000 documents were opened by Luther Evans, the librarian, in the presence of a celebrated group of impatient students and historians. Following the opening of the treasures, on the afternoon of the same day, an estimated crowd of 3,000 devotees and descendants of the Emancipator, filled the rotunda and galleries of the Congressional Library to listen to a dedicatory and laudatory service, at which I was present.

It is not my intention to enter into a detailed account of these documents. The story has been amply covered in recent magazine articles and books. It may be said, however, that outside of one letter from Mr. Lincoln's cousin, John Hanks,

touching upon the legitimacy of Nancy Hanks' birth, some 45 letters written to the President by Horace Greeley, criticizing his actions as executive head of the government, and more than 80 letters containing threats upon his life, there seems little that was startlingly new.

Evidence of the great interest in the opening of these new treasures is revealed by figures issued by the Library of Congress showing that a total of 1,911,475 microfilm copies of items in the collection has been ordered. Also, a set of 7,200 prints has been sent to Oxford University, England. It is further known that countless school children, housewives and business men, as well as historians, have inquired about the collection.



A NEW SOUTH

It is now four score and nine years since the end of the war that ravaged the Southland. But in spite of untold devastation of property, the creating of rabid hatred, and the setting of brother against brother, the proverbial courtesy and graciousness of these Southern folk still survives. Time has been a miraculous healer of animosities, mistrusts, and misunderstandings.

In traveling about the sunny Southland, I can find no evidence that the sons and daughters, descendants of the Confederates, bear any ill-will toward Abraham Lincoln, the liberator of their families' servants, and the Commander in Chief of their opposing armies. They even extend hospitality to those in their midst who wish publicly to extol the virtues of the Emancipator.

And here is further evidence of the growth of goodwill between the "yanks" of the North and the "rebs" of the South:

Eighty-four years after the implements of war had been laid aside, there was erected at Harrogate, Tennessee, a statue to the memory of the great liberator. It was unveiled by Mar-

garet Patterson, great granddaughter of President Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Abraham Lincoln, upon his assassination.

This epochal event took place on the peaceful campus of a distinguished University located on the soil of a former Confederate State. Abraham Lincoln was eulogized by both whites and blacks, and not a finger of "white supremacy" was lifted.

How often have I heard from the lips of those with whom I have conversed, this expression, "Had the life of Abraham Lincoln been spared to take part in the program of reconstruction, at the close of the War between the States, he would have, without doubt, assumed the role of the Good Samaritan, by helping to bind up the wounds of our stricken people."

Such an attitude of a once harassed and defeated people, is perhaps without precedent in the annals of warfare. And the comforting thought about it all, is, that since his tragic death, no skeletons have projected their ghostly forms to mar the sacredness of his memory.

Abraham Lincoln's life of fifty-five years—an open book of unselfish service to humanity, and devotion to country and God, is among democratic America's choicest gifts to a gloomy, jittery and war infested world of today.

*"He built the rail-pile as he built the State
Pouring his splendid strength through every blow
The grip that swung the axe in Illinois
Was on the pen that set a people free."*

EDWIN MARKHAM

APPENDICES

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF NOTABLES ABOARD THE PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL



COLONEL WARD HILL LAMON

Personal friend of Lincoln, an aide-de-camp of Governor Yates of Illinois. Colonel Lamon was one of the most talented and prominent members of the Republican Party of Illinois. A lawyer of high standing and especially popular with young Republicans.

COLONEL R. E. ELLSWORTH

A member of the famous United States Zouaves Cadets, who served to protect Mr. Lincoln on his trip from importunities of the crowds.

HONORABLE W. S. WOODS

Mr. Woods was an ambassador of good will, attached to the Special. His residence was Springfield, the home of Mr. Lincoln, and they had long been personal friends. Mr. Woods seemed to be the right man in the right place, quiet, suave; and as such he quieted the rankled spirit and brought peace and harmony to turbulent and jealous committees.

HONORABLE N. B. JUDD

Was a resident of Chicago, and a lawyer of great ability. He perhaps was best known, nationally, of any among the party. He was an old and tried friend of the President-elect, and did more to secure his nomination at the Wigwam than perhaps any other man. As chairman of the State Central Republican Committee, he contributed much toward the success of the Lincoln cause in Illinois. He was the natural selection to make the nomination speech at the convention.

JUDGE DAVID DAVIS

Another very close friend of Mr. Lincoln's. Had been for a number of years a distinguished member of the bar, and a Republican leader of the state. Had been judge of the State of Illinois Circuit Court, and served in the state Legislature, also had been connected with the Secretary of State. He was Mr. Lincoln's confidant and advisor.

JOHN GEORGE NICOLAY, Esq.

Private secretary to Mr. Lincoln. He was a young man twenty-nine years of age, of Bavarian extraction, but educated in the United States. He was of medium height, rather slim, and somewhat pale, rather handsome, with pleasant features, looking none the worse for a mustache and goatee. He had had large experience in the office of the Secretary of State of Illinois, and rendered himself invaluable during the political campaign.

JOHN HAY, Esq.

A graduate of Brown University, and assistant secretary to Mr. Lincoln. Although but twenty-three years of age, he had made himself widely known through his contributions to leading Western papers. A young man of remarkable culture and talent who intuitively seemed to know just what should be done. He had an unusually handsome presence and caused many sighs among the belles of Springfield.

DR. W. S. WALLACE M.D.

Dr. Wallace was a brother-in-law of the President-elect, and accompanied him as his personal physician. The doctor was a native of Pennsylvania, but had been a resident of Springfield, Illinois, for twenty-five years. He was quiet and unassuming, with a ready humor, and made an excellent traveling companion.

LOCKWOOD TODD

A cousin of Mrs. Lincoln.

GEORGE LATHAM

A chum of "Bob" Lincoln.

J. N. BURGESS

Personal friend of the Lincolns from Janesville, Wisconsin.

Official Escorts

COLONEL E. V. SUMNER U.S.A.

Colonel Sumner had served in the army for over forty years, having entered the Second Infantry in 1819. Most of his life was spent in the saddle, west of the Mississippi. He participated in the whole of the Mexican War. At the battle of Cherubusco, General Scott paid him the high compliment of assigning him to the command of another regiment—the Mounted Rifles. After the war Colonel Sumner was placed in the command of the Department of New Mexico. With the formation of four new regiments authorized by Congress in 1885 he was appointed Colonel of the First Cavalry. He was a most efficient officer, and one of its brightest ornaments.

MAJOR D. HUNTER U.S.A.

Was graduated from West Point in 1822, and attached to the Fifth Infantry. With the formation of the First Dragoon, Lieutenant Hunter was appointed to a captaincy. He served with distinction in that regiment until transferred to the pay department. He entered the Mexican War under General Wool, but was transferred to the command of General Taylor. His family was wealthy and widely celebrated for their hospitality.

CAPTAIN GEORGE W. HAZARD

Of the Fourth Artillery, was graduated with distinction at West Point, in 1847, and immediately joined General Taylor's Army in Mexico. At the close of the war he remained two years on the Rio Grande and was engaged in almost continual bouts and skirmishes with the Indians. Later was transferred to Florida, and remained there until the close of the Florida war. From Florida he went to Kansas. In 1857-1858 he was at Lawrence, Leavenworth and Kickapoo. Captain Hazard was an excellent officer and a highly cultivated gentleman.

CAPTAIN JOHN POPE

Of the Topographical Engineers was a son of Judge Pope of the United States District Court of Illinois. Captain Pope was graduated at West Point in 1842 and was attached to the engineer corps. He served under General Taylor during the whole Mexican War and later was employed searching for water in the "Llano Estacado" or "Staked Plains" on the line of the Pacific Railroad survey. Captain Pope was a gentleman of profound scientific attainments.⁵⁷

CITATIONS

1. Old Salem, Petersburg, Illinois home, Lincoln Monument, Springfield, Illinois. Ford's Theatre, house where Lincoln died, Lincoln Monument, Washington D.C. Cemetery, Lincoln Monument, Judge Wills' home, battlefield, seminary building—General Lee's lookout, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Lincoln Memorial, Hogenville, Knob Creek, Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Old slave market, New Orleans.
2. Gettysburg Seminary Library.
3. Near Hogenville, Ky.
4. *Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln*: Gore 1, 23.
5. *Honest Abe*: Rothschild 1, 9. *The True Abraham Lincoln*: Curtis 1, 23.
6. Nearly twenty-two.
7. *Life of Lincoln*: Tarbell, Vol. 1, IV 49, IV 50.
8. *Abraham Lincoln, The Boy and the Man*: Morgan, V. 34. *Life of Lincoln*: Tarbell, Vol. 1, IV, 57.
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10. *Words of Lincoln*: Oldroyd, 1, 2.
11. *Lincoln and New Salem*: 42.
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13. *Lincoln and New Salem*: 40.
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15. Mentor, Graham, Duncan and Nichols, XIII, 128.
16. *Abraham Lincoln, The Boy and The Man*: Morgan, IV, 25.
17. *The True Abraham Lincoln*: Curtis, Lincoln Calendar. .
18. *Abraham Lincoln, The Boy and The Man*: VIII, 63.
19. *Lincoln*: Nathaniel Stephenson, VI, 64.
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28. *Life of Lincoln*: Tarbell, Vol. II, XIX, 128-180. *Men of War Times* McClure. *Lincoln in 1860, 30th President. Lincoln's Administration*: Raymond, 44.
29. *Words of Lincoln*: Oldroyd, 49.
30. *Abraham Lincoln, The Boy and The Man*: Morgan, XVII, 157.
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32. *The True Abraham Lincoln*: Curtis, V, 32.
33. *Life of Lincoln*: Tarbell, Vol. II, XX, 169.
- 34a. *Lincoln Among His Friends*: Wilson.
34. *Herndon's Life of Lincoln*: XVI, 390.
35. Cincinnati Daily Commercial Telegraphic News: February 13, 1861. *Life of Lincoln*: Tarbell, XXI, 204.
36. Indianapolis State Guard, February 16, 1861, Cincinnati Daily Commercial, February 13, 1861.
37. Cincinnati Daily Commercial, February 13, 1861.
38. Daily Capitol City, Columbus, Ohio, February 14, 1861.
39. Daily Post, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, February 15, 1861. Telegraphic reports from Cleveland Morning Leader, Plain Dealer, February 16, 1861.
40. Cleveland Daily Herald, February 15, 1861. Cleveland Morning Leader, February 15. Cleveland City Facts and Fancies, February 16, 1861. Cleveland Plain Dealer, February 16, 1861, Ohio.
41. Museum Ford's Theatre, Washington D. C. July 26, 1947. *History of the Administration of President Lincoln*. Page 89.
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44. Buffalo, New York, Commercial Advertiser, February 18, 1861. Telegraphic report.
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 Saturday—February 23, 1861
The National Intelligencer Washington, D. C.
 Tuesday—March 5, 1865



MEET THE AUTHOR



Dr. Elbert R. Moses was born of pioneer parents, Abram and Minerva Moses, in Sterling Township, Blue Earth County, Minnesota. Elbert, the fifth child in a family of six — the restless one, like his hero, Abraham Lincoln, trampled on family tradition, by choosing to become a speaker rather than a farmer. After taking a short course in Elocution, young Elbert enrolled in College and won the State Oratorical Contest. For 20 years after graduation, Doctor Moses divided his time between College Teaching and Platform Lecturing. He founded, and was President of the Pittsburgh School of Speech for 27 years. In 1942 the Alumni of his Alma Mater, Northwestern University, cited him for a Distinguished Merit Award. He was a pioneer broadcaster over Radio Station KDKA, the author of the *Torch of Freedom*, holder of membership in the Delta Sigma Rho, and Tau Kappa Alpha College Speech Fraternities, and the International Platform Association and member of the Congregational Church. He is the author of "From Cabin to Capitol" records in which he plays the title role. They were produced with top flight actors and radio artists. A fuller account of his life is found in Vol. 27 "Who's Who in America."

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